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INVADING ARMY IN RETREAT

PLANES AND TANKS FAIL TO HOLD UP ADVANCE

SHIRE ADIABO AREA PENETRATED

—CHINA MAIL— SPECIAL

Rome, To-day.

A serious reverse suffered by the Italian army is admitted by Official War Bulletin No. 73, issued yesterday, which states that the Italian forces, after stubborn resistance, were compelled to retreat 20 kilometres from Maitimchet, a ford on the River Takazee, about 65 kilometres southwest of Aksum, and to take up a position on the Dembequina Pass. The attacking Abyssinian forces were estimated at 3,000.

At the same time the Abyssinian troops crossed the river lower down and executed a flanking movement in the district of Shire, where fighting is still in progress, tanks and aeroplanes taking an active part.

The Italian losses during the first encounter are given as four officers and nine soldiers of the home troops killed, and three officers wounded; while several dozen native soldiers were killed and wounded. The enemy losses have not yet been ascertained, but are thought to be considerable.

Addis Ababa: The Emperor of Abyssinia, after having rejected the Franco-British proposals for a settlement of the conflict as not bearing discussion, is now preparing to depart to the northern front, since in his opinion all prospects of an early peace have become very distant.

No operations are reported from either front. The equipment of the army is rapidly becoming better and better through the daily arrivals of large supplies of arms and ammunition. Red Cross detachments and field hospitals are also being despatched as quickly as possible to both fronts.

MASTERSHIP: The Ethiopian attack, the success of which has been admitted in an Italian war communiqué, was a masterpiece of their own methods of warfare. Taking advantage of clouds obscuring the moon the Ethiopians forded the river at 2 a.m. and took up attacking positions on the right bank, and at 4 a.m. charged the outposts of the Italian second army corps, who were surprised.

Machine-gun fire temporarily checked the Ethiopians, but the Ethiopian main body now crossed the river as openly as possible in order to draw the Italian fire and divert attention from the other Ethiopian movement. In the zone of fire forward Italian block houses had to be abandoned, and

These are believed to include the cessation of Asaba with a corridor to Abyssinia, and the Abyssinian retention of Aksum; while the Italians would also like the colonisation zone in South Abyssinia to be extended to the Sudan frontier, and Italy may ask for special economic facilities in Harrar province. —Reuter.

POURPARLERS CONTINUED

Dramatic Meetings in Rome

AMBASSADORS RECEIVED

—CHINA MAIL— SPECIAL

Rome, To-day.

The dramatic pourparlers occasioned by the Paris peace proposals were continued here yesterday, when the Secretary of State, Signor Savio, conferred with the British Ambassador after having on the preceding day received the French Ambassador for a lengthy talk.

It is officially stated that these conversations, as well as the lower-level undertakings by the Italian diplomatic representatives

PEACE PROPOSALS CONDEMNED

VOTE OF CENSURE BY LABOUR PARTY

FIGHTING SPEECH EXPECTED FROM SIR S. HOARE

London, To-day.

The vote of censure tabled by the Parliamentary Labour Party for to-morrow's debate runs as follows: "That the terms put forward by His Majesty's Government as a basis for an Italo-Abyssinian settlement reward the declared aggressor at the expense of the victim, destroy collective security and conflict with the expressed will of the country and the Covenant of the League of Nations, to the support of which the honour of Britain is pledged; the House therefore demands that these terms be immediately repudiated." Major Attlee is the mover.

Prior to framing the above the National Council of Labour, representing the Trades Union Congress, the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Labour Party, passed a resolution emphatically condemning the peace proposals, and calling on the League effectively to apply the sanctions policy and to refuse to recognise the invasion or conquest of any part of Abyssinia as a basis of settlement.

A fighting speech is expected from Sir Samuel Hoare when he opens to-morrow's debate. Mr. Baldwin will up and demand a vote of confidence, but this will not be taken as a vote in favour of the peace proposals themselves.

OUR CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT

32-PAGE EXTRA FOR FESTIVE SEASON

LITERARY XMAS PUDDING

To-day we are giving our readers a 32-page Supplement of mixed Christmas fare. Beginning with Messages from Bishop Hall, Father Byrne, S.J., and the Rev. J. R. Higgs, the Supplement contains a charming fantasy of a Hong Kong dream inspired by the willow-pattern plates, a long story by Doreen Suttie called "Unconditional Surrender" in which love gets mixed up with a pearl necklace and a crook, a short story by Harold Mercer, and a story of rough sailing ship days called "The Fighting Steward." Christmas is described as it is celebrated in Sweden, Hungary, and South Africa, and "Toyland" is pictured, and there is a corner for the children.

Other stories are "The Way of a Sailor" by Patricia Thompson, "The Two Promises" by E. D. Wethercote, and "Cats and Cab-hages" by John Wordsworth. "Mixed together," as they say in recipes for the Christmas Pudding, "with cartoons, illustrations, and quips," this Supplement again provides exclusive Christmas fare for our readers.

RAILWAY FARES BY INSTALMENTS

Ingenious Scheme in England

London, To-day.

An ingenious scheme for the payments of railway fares by instalments is announced by two of the main line railways. The booking office will sell shilling "save-to-travel" stamps. A card of 10 such stamps can be exchanged for a 10s. voucher, which will bear interest, so that in six months it will be worth 10/3d. The vouchers and stamped cards may be used at any time for the purchase of all descriptions of single or return tickets, except season tickets. —British Wireless Service.

With regard to the proceedings at Geneva to-day Mr. Anthony Eden may elect to adhere to the line that the peace proposals are not intended to be imposed on either of the parties, but are put forward merely as a basis for discussion, and that no attempt will be made to push them further than they are acceptable to the League.

On the other hand it is anticipated that Mr. Eden will repeat Britain's well-known willingness to take measures to ensure the success of any collective action decided on by the League.

LAVAL'S DEMAND

Paris: M. Laval will insist on a vote of confidence this afternoon before going to Geneva. The Radical-Socialist Party is meeting to decide whether to change its policy of support for M. Laval. —Reuter.

NAVAL PARLEY IN LONDON

SOME NEW GROUND BROKEN

BRITISH PROPOSALS

London, To-day.

New ground was broken at the Naval Conference when Lord Monnell, First Lord of the Admiralty, introduced a proposal inviting the Powers to state what tonnage they contemplate constructing in the next few years. Behind the proposal is the idea that any eventual treaty should contain a clause recognising the right of all the signatories to equality and security, and to possess the measure of armaments necessary for the national security.

No actual figures will be mentioned therein, but unilateral declarations containing the tonnage to be annexed, as a less formal undertaking than a treaty itself. Thus individual countries will not sacrifice their status by agreeing to build lower tonnages than others.

How far the annexes will be made a contractual obligation depends on the support accorded to the British proposals. It is understood that the United States is strongly in favour of the annexes being made definitely contractual, and it is expected that they will suggest an "escalator clause" designed to maintain the present ratio. —Reuter.

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR FRENCH PREMIER

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN CHAMBER

Paris, To-day.

After a lively session, in the course of which the Laval-Hoare peace scheme was subjected to trenchant criticism by Left-wing orators, M. Laval once more emerged with flying colours when the Socialist motion to fix December 20 as the date for the debate on the foreign political questions—instead of December 27, as suggested by the Premier—was defeated in the Chamber by 306 votes to 252 yesterday afternoon, after M. Laval had put a question of confidence.

In the course of the debate the Socialist M. Leon Blum led the attack, while M. Pierre Cot, leader of the Left wing of the Radical-Socialist Party, strongly supported the Socialist motion.

M. Laval stressed in a short rejoinder that he would not go to Geneva under humiliating circumstances. If his opponents considered his policy to be dangerous they should take their choice at once and not wait till December 27.

The Premier also took the opportunity of refuting the rumour that Britain had promised Italy a loan in case the latter should accept the peace proposals.

It was announced subsequently that Mr. Eden departed for Geneva yesterday afternoon. According to press reports he was given instructions that the Paris proposals are not inviolable, and that the British Government would leave it to the League of Nations to decide their fate. —Trans-Ocean Service.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF HUPEH APPOINTED

Nanking, to-day.—It is officially announced that Mr. Yang Yung-tai, the Generalissimo's chief secretary, has been appointed Chairman of Hupeh. General Cheng Chien, former commander of the sixth army, has been appointed Chief of the General Staff. —Reuter.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR AT PARIS III

Paris, To-day.—The German Ambassador, Dr. Koester, who has been in ill-health for some time, will shortly take a long holiday in order to recuperate. —Trans-Ocean Service.

DUBLIN RUGBY WIN

London, To-day.—Playing at home yesterday, Dublin University defeated Cambridge University by 15 points to 8 in their annual Rugby encounter. —Reuter.

LADY KINGSFORD SMITH

AS DIRECTOR OF AIR COMPANY

Sydney, To-day.

Lady Kingsford-Smith has decided to replace her husband as a director of the Trans-Tasman Air Development Co., using her own resources until the capital of \$200,000 can be obtained. The company will adhere to Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith's plan for a semi-weekly air service between Australia and New Zealand. —Reuter.

SUPER LINER FOR U.S.A.

Vessel To Replace "Leviathan"

Washington, To-day.

The signature of a contract to construct a super-liner to replace the Leviathan at a cost of \$11,900,000, is confirmed by Mr. Daniel C. Roper, Secretary for Commerce. The contract was signed by the United States Lines and the Newport-News Shipbuilding Co., but is effective only when Mr. Roper has approved it and an application for the construction loan.

The Federal Government is permitted to lead up to 70 per cent of the construction cost. —Reuter.



Nafas Pasha (above) is the leader of the Nationalist Party whose members have been largely responsible for the recent outbreaks in Cairo protesting British domination.

HOPEI-CHAHAR COUNCIL

INAUGURATED IN SECRECY

DEMONSTRATIONS FEARED

Peiping, To-day.

Apparently for fear of student demonstrations if a preliminary announcement was made, the Hopei-Chahar Council was inaugurated this morning in great secrecy at 8 o'clock, the ceremony lasting 45 minutes. All the members were present, with the exception of Messrs. Chow Tso-min, Wang Keh-kin and Cheng Keh.

THREE PRINCIPLES

General Sung outlined the three principles on which he intends to run the Council: firstly, district reforms and appointments must be based on the will of the people; secondly, officials must share the adversity as well as the happiness of the people, and honesty must be emphasised in the administration; of—finance; thirdly, friendly relations will be promoted with neighbouring countries in accordance with the mandate of the Government.

General Sung referred to the special situation existing here since the Tangku armistice agreement and emphasised the need for keeping on friendly terms with Japan. He also dwelt on the need for reviving the traditional virtues of China, exterminating the Communists and developing and spreading Oriental culture.

SUPPORT ASSURED

Mr. Li Ting-yu responded congratulating General Sung and assuring him of the support of all members. Mr. Chow Chien-sen expressed the hope that the Council will be able to revive the prosperity of Peiping and Tientsin.

There were a number of specially invited guests present, the ceremony taking place in the old Waichiaopu building, which was decorated with Kuo-mintang flags, but no portrait of Sun Yat-sen. A business meeting followed, at which it was decided that the Council should meet weekly on Friday afternoons. A standing committee, consisting of Wang Yitang, Liu Chen and Chu Teliang, (Continued on Page 12)

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THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction.

on Wednesday, the 18th Dec., 1935, commencing at 11.00 a.m. at their Sales Room, Duddell Street.

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IS THE AEROPLANE SUPREME?

(Continued from Page 6.)

This does not mean that surface ships are obsolete. There are ranges of the oceans which shore-based aircraft cannot reach. There protection for merchant shipping must be provided by surface ships equipped with aircraft. There are coastlines and rivers of the world that must still be policed by surface ships. Thus surface ships are still required, but they must be heavily armed with aircraft. Ours are not.

Vulnerable To-day our Fleet is concentrated in the Mediterranean. What would it do if war broke out? Around it lie shore-based aircraft within striking range of its every movement, within range of its every harbour. What would happen if it had to defend itself against attack from the air?

It could be attacked both in harbour and at sea. Such attacks could be delivered by bombing aeroplanes capable of speeds up to 248 miles an hour. Attacks would be made with heavy bombs, such as have sunk battleships in trial tests by American bombing planes, and with thermite or elite bombs. Thermite and elite burn at a temperature around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

We know of no substance that will extinguish them. Their blinding heat can burn through steel. Thermite bombs are small, from 6oz. to 20 lb. in weight. They could be dropped in showers upon the steel decks, like demoniac hellions, from a height beyond the range of guns. They might fire the magazines, and burning elite, in contact with water, gives off a poisonous gas. Heavy bombs would penetrate the weakened decks or detonate in the water, alongside.

What answer can the Navy make? Its total complement of front-line aeroplanes is 171. It has no bombers comparable in speed, range, or carrying capacity with those I have just mentioned.

Supreme Protection

Ground forces could be attacked with light and heavy high-explosive and shrapnel bombs by modern high-speed bombers. A rain of small thermite or elite bombs would scorch the troops to death. And for the laying of gas there is no more efficient instrument than the aeroplane, which can spread a fine rain of poisonous liquid, rapidly contaminating a large area with death-dealing gas.

It is time to get our perspective right. How much longer must we remain as we are to-day, seventh air power in the world, fifth in Europe? How much longer must we witness other nations building heavy bombers faster than ours, with a speed equal to and higher than that of our fighters? The expansion of the Air Force so far authorised will not rectify that position by April 1937.

Make no mistake, times have changed. The aeroplane is supreme among the striking forces in the world to-day. The British Navy must have more aeroplanes to give it hitting power. To-day, lacking the protecting shadow of the wings that are supreme, it risks a second Coronel.

BRIDGE NOTES

LAYDOWN SLAM

By Ely Culbertson

Most slam hands should be played in a suit rather than in notrump, in order that tricks may be developed by ruffing. The hand below, however, was played in notrump rather than at six clubs because North was anxious to have the opening lead come up to the strong South hand.

South Dealer North-South vulnerable

North: S-9 H-K J 8 3 D-3 2 C-K Q J 8 7 4

West: S-J 5 4 H-10 9 4 2 D-A Q 5 C-10 6 5

East: S-Q 10 7 3 H-7 6 D-10 8 6 4 C-9 3 2

South: S-A K 8 6 2 H-A Q 5 D-K J 9 7 C-A

The bidding: (Figures after bids refer to numbered explanatory paragraphs.)

South West North East 1S Pass 2C Pass 3D(1) Pass 3H(2) Pass 4NT(3) Pass 5C Pass 5H(4) Pass 6NT(5) Pass

1-With more than five honour-tricks, South feels sure, after his partner has responded to the opening bid, that a game can be made.

2-A rebid of the club suit would push mere routine too far. The cheap opportunity to show the four-card heart holding should not be spurned.

3-The immediate bid of four notrump is excellent. It avoids a pitfall. Were South to show his preference for hearts, or rebid his spades, with notrump, and if the final contract was notrump, an opening lead through the diamond holding might be fatal. It is imperative that the notrump contract be played by the South.

4-After North's weak response to the four-notrump bid, South can do no better than to show his preference for North's two suits and leave the rest to North.

5-A very fine bid, based on the natural inferences from South's leap to four notrump. South could scarcely make this bid without at least three Aces and without strong support for one or both of North's suits. North has no hesitation in going to a slam and he naturally chooses a notrump contract to protect the possible tenace holdings in spades and diamonds in the South hand.

Of course, the Slam was a laydown, as there were 12 top tricks without a finesse—six in clubs, four in hearts and two in spades. If the hand had been played at six clubs, East might have opened a diamond. In this case West would have taken the setting tricks before North could get the lead.

ROTARY MEETING

Prof. Shellshear On Origin Of Man

At yesterday's tiffin meeting of the local Rotary Club, held in the Roof Garden of the Hong Kong Hotel, Professor J. L. Shellshear, in the course of an intensely interesting address on "Recent Discoveries in Relation to the Evolution of Man," said that the centre of research in this line was gradually shifting to the Far East.

The speaker was introduced by Professor L. Forster, President of the Club, who said that Professor Shellshear was leaving the Colony shortly for Australia. During his stay in Hong Kong he had done valuable archaeological and research work in conjunction with leading authorities.

Among the guests present were Dr. Cecil Robertson, Shanghai; Mr. Wilson, Fookien; Mr. H. T. White and Mr. A. T. T. T.

Amusements

Cinema Notes

"DIAMOND JIM"—KING'S THEATRE

"Diamond Jim," the glittering screen play based on the life of James Buchanan Brady, the first of the super-villains, the man who made the gay "nineties" gay, opens to-day, at the King's Theatre.

"Diamond Jim" is the man who wore \$2,000,000 in jewels; who offered Lillian Russell \$1,000,000 to marry him; who made a fortune of \$12,000,000 from a start of \$91; and who gave millions to charity and friends, and steel cars to America.

You will see Edward Arnold, of "Sadie McKee" fame, as "Diamond Jim"; Jean Arthur, beautiful Rinnie Barnes as "Lillian Russell"; Cesar Romero, Hugh O'Connell, George Sidney, Eric Blone, Robert McWade and a host of others, including Bill Hoolahan as John L. Sullivan, the famous heavyweight of the period.

"PEOPLE WILL TALK"—QUEEN'S THEATRE

The team who kept you laughing throughout "Buggles of Red Gap" and "Pursuit of Happiness" are together again in "People Will Talk."

They have a brand of humour that is all their own, just as Laurel and Hardy and Wheeler and Woolsey have. Their special preserves are domestic manners and marital disagreements, and they are funnier this time than they have ever been before. This picture is of a suburban couple, and Buggles and Miss Boland interpret their parts so well as to be recognisable to all.

"DEATH FLIES EAST"—ALHAMBRA THEATRE

The shroud of mystery that cloaks a murder in a speeding continental plane provides the melodramatic theme of Columbia's new mystery drama, "Death Flies East."

The story concerns a young California nurse, paroled on a poisoning charge, who rushes east by plane to obtain a confession from a Sing Sing convict, doomed to die the following day, which is certain to clear her. At Tucson two strange men join the motley passenger group.

Arriving in Dallas one of the passengers collapses and is found to have been poisoned. He is sent to a local hospital and the plane continues without him. After a few hours in the air however, a detective on an unknown mission is found dead-poisoned. The plane returns to Dallas and the young nurse is suspected because of her record and because she has violated the California parole by leaving the state.

Conrad Nagel, featured as a young professor en route to Washington with secret documents, interests himself in the young girl's predicament. By a clever ruse, he is able to clear her and trick the murderer into a confession.

"FOG OVER FRISCO"—ORIENTAL THEATRE

Bette Davis, who was told that she had no "sex-appeal" when she first tried to enter films, puts the lie to this belief with her performance in "Fog Over Frisco," the current attraction at the Oriental.

The story is high-powered, the dialogue good, and the humour crisp and breezy, and Miss Davis carries the whole show on her pretty shoulders. She is cast as "Frisco Arline," the queen of the San Francisco waterfront, who rules with such an inflexible whip that even her smile can mean death.

"THE COUNTESS OF MONTE CRISTO"—STAR THEATRE

Fay Wray as a little movie extra girl, and Paul Lukas, with his ever charming accent and continental manners, as a polished gentleman crook, combine to make a love team of unusual feeling and action in "The Countess of Monte Cristo."

The supporting cast includes Patsy Kelly as Miss Wray's glamorous little sidekick; Paul Page as her juvenile lover; Ronald Owen, John Sheehan, Robert McWade, and Carmel Myers—beautiful scenes are displayed.



Grace Moore and Tullio Carminati are in "One Night of Love" to be screened at the Star Theatre next Saturday.

SANITARY BOARD

Restricted Area For Offensive Trades

LICENCES REFUSED

A letter from the Government signifying the withdrawal of the motion by the Legislative Council dealing with a further amendment to the by-laws made under the heading "Markets," set forth in Schedule B of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, was laid on the table at the fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board yesterday.

Mr. W. J. Carrie, President of the Board, said that the by-laws would not come into force until after January 1, 1936, after which date the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance will be repealed and the by-laws re-made.

An application for an offensive trade licence to store sharks' fins at No. 36, Nanchang Street, second floor, was refused. Mr. Carrie said that the Selection Committee had unanimously agreed to refuse the application, with the Board agreeing. He further said that the Board had agreed to refuse all applications made outside the area of offensive trades.

Present at the meeting were Mr. W. J. Carrie (President), the Hon. Mr. R. M. Henderson (Vice-President), Dr. G. W. Pope (Medical Officer of Health), the Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo, Mr. F. C. Hall, Mr. M. L. C. F. Bellamy, Dr. E. A. de Castro Basto, Dr. Li Shun-fun, Mr. C. J. Roe (Secretary), and Mr. Im Ping-tseung (Assistant Secretary).

CHINESE GUNBOAT LAUNCHED

To-Kwa-Wan Ceremony This Morning

The launching ceremony took place this morning at 2 o'clock of the Canton Government's small gunboat Hoi Chow at the Hong Kong, China Dock Co., Ltd., at To-Kwa-wan.

The new vessel, which is 135 feet long and 19½ feet wide, has taken six months to build.

NEW P. & O. LINER'S RECORD

The new P. and O. liner Strathmore (24,000 tons) made the passage from Marseilles to Bombay, on her maiden voyage, in exactly 10 days. She thus regained the record from the Italian line, whose best time was 11 days for the run, from Genoa to Bombay, this distance being 100 miles shorter.

Passengers in the Strathmore sent a congratulatory cable-gram to the company on arrival at Bombay.

"ROBERTA"—MAJESTIC THEATRE

One of the most popular musicals of the year, featuring the dancing wonders, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, "Roberta" is now being screened at the Majestic Theatre.

Irene Dunne has the principal singing role. She is accompanied by the famous Parisian gown centre, Roberta, while Miss Rogers is a bogan countess. Fred Astaire is the director of a dance band looking for an engagement in the city. In addition to the many songs and dance hits, countless beautiful scenes are displayed.

GOVERNOR SHOWS GRATITUDE

Letter Of Thanks To Sir H. Pollock

HIS EXCELLENCY ADMIRES SKILLED CRAFTSMANSHIP

The following letter has been received by Sir Henry Pollock from the Honourable Colonial Secretary, Sir Thomas Southern: Sir—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to convey to you personally, and through you, to the members of the Public Reception Committee and the people of Hong Kong and in particular to Sir William Shearton, the Chairman of the Reception Sub-Committee, His Excellency's most sincere thanks for the warm welcome accorded to him on the occasion of his arrival in the Colony.

His Excellency has received with very much pleasure the English and Chinese copies of the Address of Welcome and in thanking you for them he wishes to express his admiration for the skilled craftsmanship which adorned both the addresses and the handsome casket in which they were contained.

His Excellency further desires me to convey to yourself and to the other Members of the Committee his appreciation of the excellent arrangements, and the able manner in which they were carried out, at the ceremony of the presentation of the Addresses of Welcome at Volunteer Headquarters.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, W. T. Southern, Colonial Secretary.

FRENCH ADMIRAL'S Tiffin Party

Entertainment Prior To Sailing

GOVERNOR VISITS FLAGSHIP

Vice-Admiral J. P. Esteve, Commander-in-Chief of the French Fleet in the Far East, entertained a number of distinguished guests aboard his flagship the Primauguet yesterday, preparatory to sailing for Saigon at 11 a.m. to-day.

The Vice-Admiral will embark on the sister ship Lamotte Piquet at Saigon, and will transfer his flag, returning to Hong Kong in about two months time.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott, visited the Primauguet yesterday and among others entertained were: H. E. Admiral Sir Frederic Dreyer, C-in-C, and Lady Dreyer, Major-General W. A. Bartholomew, G.O.C. Commodore G. C. and Mrs. Sedgwick, Lady Southern, M. C. Renet, Consul General for France, and Mrs. Bennet; Mr. Van der Straeten, Doyen of the Consular body, Mrs. Van der Straeten; the Hon. Dr. A. R. and Mrs. Wellington; the Hon. Mr. T. H. King, I.G.P.; Sir Robert Ho Tung, Dr. and Mrs. Strahan and Miss Strahan.

"MUSICAL CHAIRS"

Successful Dress Rehearsal

If the success of last night's dress rehearsal is any criterion, the production of Ronald Mackenzie's "Musical Chairs" by the A.D.C. booked for to-night and to-morrow night at the China Fleet Club Theatre, will add yet another to a long list of successes. The dress rehearsal went without a hitch and was eagerly appreciated by a large audience of soldiers and sailors.

A detailed criticism of the production will appear in to-morrow's issue of the China Mail.

SCHOOL PRIZE-DAY ENTERTAINMENT

The Holy Spirit School conducted by the M.K. Sisters at 140, Causeway Road, held its annual prize distribution at St. Patrick's Hall, Garden Road, yesterday afternoon. The occasion was marked by a short programme including a Chinese play, "The Homeless Artist," by girls of the intermediate classes; Mother Goose and tableaux.



TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME

The following programme will be broadcast to-day from the Hong Kong Broadcasting Station ZBW on a wavelength of 365 metres. (845 K.C.s.)

A LITTLE ABOUT THE DUTCH EAST INDIES

12.30-2.15 p.m.—European Programme. 12.30 p.m.—Recorded Music. 1 p.m.—Local Time and Weather Report.

1.15 p.m.—Hong Kong Hotel Orchestra. 1.30 p.m.—Radio Press Bulletin. 2.15 p.m.—Close Down.

4-7 p.m.—Chinese Programme. 7-11 p.m.—European Programme. 7-7.30 p.m.—Excerpts from Light Opera and Musical Comedy.

Selection—Trial by Jury (Sullivan). Vocal Gems—Jolly Roger.

Selection—Glamorous Night. Vocal Gems—Sweet.

7.30-8 p.m.—From the Studio. "A Little about the Dutch East Indies" by Mr. D. V. Stevenson.

8 p.m.—Local Time and Weather Report.

8.03-8.10 p.m.—Indian Love Lyrics (Woodford-Finden).

8.10-8.40 p.m.—From the Studio. Selections by "The Music Makers."

8.40-9 p.m.—Concert Waltzes. Wine, Women and Song (Strauss).

Moonlight on the Alster (Petras). The Merry Widow (Lehar).

Count of Luxembourg (Lehar). Amorette (Gungl).

9-9.15 p.m.—A Relay of the Davenport News Bulletin (Copyright by Reuter).

9.15-9.40 p.m.—Variety. Piano Solos—Sweet Adeline.

Arthur Young and Reginald Forester.

Song—One Night of Love. Master Robert Harris.

(Boy Soprano). Organ Solo—The Blue Danube Waltz. Reginald Poort.

Vocal Duet—I've told every little star—Music in the Air. Layton & Johnstone.

Song—You and the Night and the Music. Gracie Fields.

Guitar Solo—The World is waiting for the Sunrise. Len Filla.

Vocal—Me and the Old Fella's Home. The Hill Billies.

9.40-10 p.m.—From the Studio. A Piano Solo Recital by Marina Baracca.

Programme:

1. Liebestraum. Liszt.

2. Prelude. Rachmaninoff.

3. Nocturne. Chopin.

4. Prelude. Debussy.

10 p.m.—Big Ben: Reuter Press Bulletin.

10.10-10.30 p.m.—Light Orchestral Music. Mendelssohn.

Ensemble Gavotte ("Mignon") (Thomas).

In the Shadows (Finck). Fairy Tale (Heyken).

Through Night to Light (Lankien). Blue Devil's March (Williams).

10.30-11 p.m.—Dance Music.

11 p.m.—Close Down.

ANNUAL MEETING

Local Horticultural Society

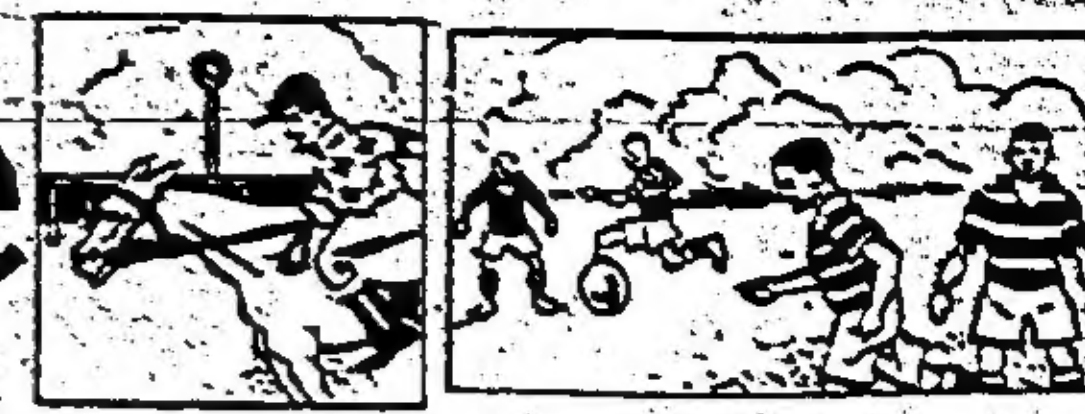
Presiding at the Annual Meeting of the Hong Kong Horticultural Society, which was held in the board-room of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. yesterday, Sir William Hornell warned members that the continuance of the loan of the Volunteer Headquarters for the Annual Show of Flowers and Vegetables was something on which they could not count indefinitely. Sir William also commented on the falling off of exhibits at the last Show.

Amongst those present were Mr. J. T. Bagram (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Andrew (Hon. Treasurer), Lieut. Col. H. B. L. Dwyer, Mr. H. Green, Mr. F. P. Grose, Mrs. F. C. Hall, Dr. G. A. C. Herklotz, Mrs. R. E. House, Mr. V. H. C. Jarrett, Mr. G. G. N. Pinson, Mr. J. P. Robinson (Committee), Lady Southern, Lieut. Col. M. H. Logan, Mr. G. A. Harriman, Mrs. R. Peston, Mrs. G. A. C. Herklotz, Mr. J. Russell, Mr. H. Green, Mr. F. C. Hall, Mr. H. L. Demys and Mr. C. B. Johnson.

Riddle impersonated by the little ones, and a Nativity Play enacted by the upper classes. The singing of hymns and carols behind the scenes linked the short scenes.



Sporting Page



ENGLAND'S RUGBY TEAM PROBLEMS FOR ALL-BLACKS GAME



Miss M. Westcott, above, will replace Miss E. Thomson, in the "Y" Ladies' senior Seven-a-Side hockey team in the semi-final round next Saturday.

CORRESPONDENCE

Civilian Hockey Eleven

(To The Editor, "China Mail")

Sir,—Having witnessed all the civilian hockey trials, and as a lover of the game, I crave your courtesy in allowing me space to express my views on the selected players whose names appeared in the local press.

The defence in my opinion is sound except that M. H. Hassan of the Radio should have been in the pivot position with W. Reed on his right, or vice-versa. I think gross injustice will be done if Awtar Singh is not given the centre-forward position. No doubt G. Singh is good, but the display he put up shows that he is only faster than Awtar Singh, otherwise the latter is trickier and has much better ball control.

I commend the following forward line for the selection committee's due consideration, and I hope it is not too late:—

Divert, G. Singh, Awtar Singh, Pinto and Souza. Although Nooy is faster than Souza, he has a tendency to be off-side too often, and his stickwork is not as good as Souza's. Besides Souza and Pinto combine well, and the selectors would do well to select him.

In conclusion I beg to point out that I am not personally acquainted with any of the above players. I am only voicing my opinion as I would like to see the best civilian side turned out against the Services.

E. S. L.



INTERPORT SOCCER DATE FIXED

Chinese Players Who Can Go If Selected

It has now been ascertained that Leung Wing-chun, Lee Kwok-wai, Wong Mei-shun and Tao Kwai-shung will be available if chosen for the Interport game against Shanghai.

There is also a possibility that Lee Wai-tong may also travel north.

The Interport Committee have not been idle and much preliminary work has already been accomplished.

A letter has been received from Shanghai suggesting that the Interport game should be played on Chinese New Year's day, January 24, and stating that Tientsin may also be participating in the series. Shanghai want the Colony team to arrive on January 22.

T. B. LOW QUALIFIES FOR ADAMSON CUP

Returning a card of 85-16-69, T. B. Low qualified for the Adamson Cup (December) at Happy Valley over the week-end. There were 11 other entries.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND SOCCER CLASH

Several Well-Known Players Omitted

KOWLOON APPEAR BETTER BALANCED TEAM

The annual soccer match between the Island and the Mainland will this year be played on the Hong Kong Club ground on New Year's Day, the proceeds of which are in aid of the funds of the Children's Playground Association, in which the President of the Football Association, the Hon. Sir Thomas Southorn, takes a very keen and personal interest.

Owing to the inability of several Chinese players coming from Canton on that day and owing to the end-of-the-year rush at most offices, several well-known players have been omitted, but the two teams are well matched, though Kowloon appear to have the better balanced team.

The Teams

The following are the teams: Island—Rowlands (Fusslers), Mak Si-nan (Athletic) and S. Strange (Club) (Captain); Leung Wing-chun (South China "A"), Morton (Lycemum), Lee Kwok-wai (South China "A"), Baxter (Navy), Ward (St. Joseph's), Elliot (Club), Talbot (Fusslers) and Bickford (Club). Kowloon—Lam Tak-yo (South China "B"), Lam Man (South China "A"), Cheuk Shek-lam (South China "B"), Harrison (Fusslers) and E. Strange (Club).

Mainland:—Boyes (Kowloon); Bowen (Recreo) and C. Pile (Police) (Captain); Bliss (Kowloon), Lawton (East Lancs.) and North (Police); T. Pile (Police), Sandford (East Lancs.), D. Knox (Kowloon), Ridley (Lancs.) and A. A. Alves (Recreo). Reserves:—Gomes (Recreo), G. White (Kowloon), Kestman (Kowloon), N. Delgado (Recreo) and V. White (Kowloon).

"SUNDAY HERALD" CUP TEAMS

FOR SEMI-FINAL ROUND TIES

The following are three of the teams for Semi-Final Rounds of the Sunday Herald Charity Cup competitions on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Scotland:—Rodger (Club); Blackburn (Police) and Hill (Club); Gilchrist (Club), Gorman (East Lancs.) and Knight (Lycemum); McLeary (East Lancs.), Matthews (Stonecutters), D. Knox (Kowloon), Howlett (Engineers) and Forbes (Stonecutters).

Portugal:—R. Marques (Recreo); A. V. Gosano (Recreo) and V. Costa (St. Joseph's), N. Delgado (Recreo), N. Beltrao (Recreo), J. Elms (St. Joseph's), T. Castilho (Recreo), A. Ward (St. Joseph's), B. Gosano (Recreo), J. Gomes (Recreo) and A. A. Alves (Recreo).

China:—Pau Ka-ping; Lee Tin-tang and Tam Keng-pak; Leung Wing-chun, Wong Mei-shun and Lee Kwok-wai; Tao Kwai-shung, Fung King-keung, Lee Wai-tong, Ip Pak-wa and Chan Kwai-lung.

RECORD INTERNATIONAL GATE RECEIPTS

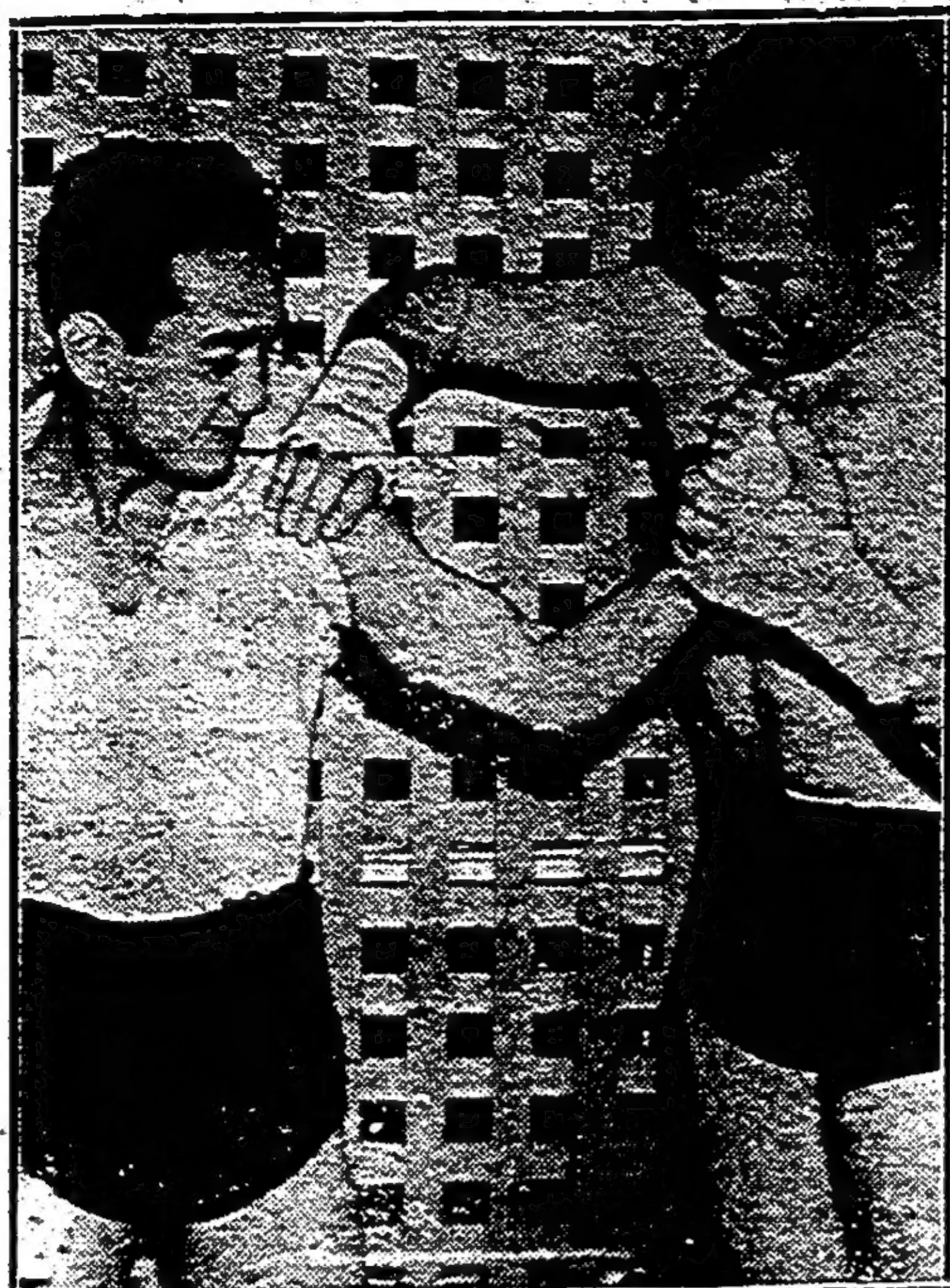
The attendance and receipts for the recent international between Wales and Scotland at Ninian Park, Cardiff, were a record for any football international match in Wales, the attendance being 37,568 and receipts £2,704 11s. 8d.

New Golf Ball With Much Shorter Flight To Be Tested

(By GEORGE GREENWOOD)

London, November 21.—Convinced that the modern golf ball goes too far and thereby is ruining the game, a body of London golfers have decided on an interesting experiment.

I have been invited to make one of 12 players to engage in a match on December 8 against the first six players of Oxford University and the first six of Cambridge



Before his fight with Lou Salica, bantamweight boxing champion of the world, Sisto Escobar, of Puerto Rico, left, was approached by his room-mate Paulino Uzcudun, the Basque wood chopper, who was recently beaten on a T.E.O. decision by Joe Louis, the Detroit sensation, in New York.

HOCKEY CLASSIC TO-DAY

NEW ZEALANDERS TO PLAY IN CANADA

An Additional Match Against The Barbarians

London, November 18.—Engineer-Commander S. F. Cooper, secretary of the New Zealand Tour Committee, states that arrangements have been made by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union for the New Zealanders to play matches in Vancouver on their homeward journey.

The team will leave Liverpool for Canada on Friday, January 10. These arrangements will preclude the tourists extending their trip to allow an additional match with the Barbarians.

ADRIAN QUIST'S TRIUMPH

Defeats Crawford For N.S.W. Title

BRILLIANT OVERHEAD PLAY

(By "FAIR FIELD")

London, November 21.—Only the other day I suggested that Adrian Quist, who had a much better record than J. H. Crawford on their recent South African tour, might soon challenge the supremacy of the Australian champion in his own country.

Now the Adelaide player has deprived Crawford of his title in the New South Wales championship at Sydney, which he won by beating Perry in the final last year.

Fine Allrounder

Quist, holder with Crawford of the Wimbledon and French doubles championship, has hitherto shone more brightly in doubles, where his overhead play has often

(Continued on Page 5)

TRIANGULAR SERIES MATCH: NAVY V CLUB

Lt. Lane Doubtful Starter

PROBABLE CLUB CHANGES

The third Triangular Hockey Tournament match of the season will take place this afternoon on the Naval ground at King's Park where the Navy will entertain the Hong Kong Hockey Club in their return encounter, having won the first by the only goal of the match.

The Navy are at present in a very strong position for the title, having already two wins to their



Lt. Comdr. Broome, above, will probably be seen in the Navy's full-back division this afternoon against the Club in the Triangular Hockey Tournament match at King's Park.

credit. They recently defeated the Army by the odd goal in five in a brilliant display during which they dominated play throughout. The Navy are likely to field the same team as against the Army, although Lt. Lane, their brilliant right-winger, is a doubtful starter owing to an injury sustained on the Rugby field.

Club's Likely Changes

The Club are likely to make several changes from the team which lost to the Navy on November 20.

(Continued on Page 5)

TO-DAY'S JUNIOR SHIELD MATCH

The European Police Football team will meet the Lincolns on the Kowloon Football Club ground to-day at 2.30 p.m. in the Second Round of the Junior Shield Competition.

GADNEY & CRANMER ONLY CERTAINTIES

DIFFICULTIES WHICH SELECTORS MUST MEET

WHAT OF THE HALVES?

(By Howard Marshall)

London, November 20.

NOW that the Scottish selectors have named the men who are to meet New Zealand at Murrayfield next Saturday we begin to think seriously of representative football. The England selectors, no doubt, have been thinking seriously for some time, but I cannot believe that they have come to any very satisfactory conclusions. I am almost tempted to make a small wager with those of my readers who fancy themselves at picking teams.

Almost tempted, but not quite, such is my regard for their sapience and the odd vagaries of fortune. I would be almost prepared, though—caution is strong in me this morning—to eat my travel-stained hat if anyone within the next three days makes a correct forecast of the England team which will play the All Blacks on January 4. And in this handsome offer I include the selectors themselves.

It is, in fact, a very nice problem, this building of an England team. Where, for instance, are our half-backs? C. Slow and B. Gadeny, do you suggest? But Slow is crooked, and I am bound to say that before he left the field on Saturday in the Midlands and New Zealand match he had not struck his best form. Gadeny certainly comes in at scrum-half, for he appears to be playing as well as ever this year, and his strength is invaluable in the big games.

I wish it were possible to be as confident about the stand-off half. We look at Wales, with C. W. Jones and W. T. H. Davies, and hum the refrain of that song from the Beggar's Opera "How happy could we be with either."

Scotland, too may choose between R. W. Shaw and C. F. Grieve, now playing so well for Oxford. England have not a single player of undoubted international class, though a few names suggest themselves—J. Bowker, W. T. Anderson, J. R. Auty, G. A. Walker of the Air Force, J. A. Tallent and P. Cantler, with R. Leyland moved up from the centre as a possibility.

Cranmer's Partner

As for the centres, there is P. Cranmer, fortunately in great form again this year, but who shall we have alongside him? Probably Leyland, though there is a most promising London Scottish player, M. C. Lucas, who is qualified to represent England.

And on the wings? H. S. Sever of Sale must be in the running, and E. J. Unwin and G. W. C. Meikle, and then there are oldtimers like L. A. Booth and A. C. Harrison. I have a fancy for Harrison. He must be playing reasonably well, for he greatly impressed the All Blacks, and to my mind he has more football in him than all the rest put together. Still, Sever is a fine, strong runner, well worth a trial.

And full-back? There are no great full-backs, if we except R. G. Owen-Smith, who has had cartilage trouble, though he is turning out now. And if we play Owen-Smith again for England, despite his South African origin, is there any reason why we should hesitate before picking A. Bradford, not out.

(Continued on Page 5.)

PEARCE CUP SENSATION

"Y" LADIES LOSE PIVOT THROUGH PANTOMIME

Junior Team Also Handicapped

NEWCOMERS BROUGHT INTO TEAMS

(By "STICKS")

A minor sensation has been caused in ladies' hockey circles as the result of the withdrawal of three members of the "Y" Ladies' Senior and Junior Seven-a-Side hockey teams.

The European Y.M.C.A. are, as is well known, staging a pantomime—Dick Whittington—in which Miss E. Thomson, pivot of the senior team, Miss P. McCaw, pivot of the junior team, and Miss R. Ingram, a junior wing-half, take prominent parts.

Though the Seven-a-Sides were arranged long before the Pantomime, those responsible for the pantomime have shown a surprising disregard for their hockey members and have thus caused general disappointment.

(Continued on Page 5.)

INTER-HONG PING-PONG

Mercantile Bank Beat A.P.C.

A friendly Ping-pong match between the Mercantile Bank Sports Club and the Asiatic Petroleum Company Sports Club, played last night at the Bank, resulted in a win for the former by 45 games to 27.

Results were:—
R. O'M. Deane (M.B.S.C.)—
beat C. C. Pereira 2-0
beat F. X. Silva 2-0
beat J. J. Remedios 1-1
beat P. C. Lok 2-0
beat A. T. Bias 1-1
beat A. J. Bias 2-0
H. Lee (M.B.S.C.)—
beat Pereira 1-1
beat Lok 0-2
beat Remedios 1-1
beat Lok 0-2
beat A. T. Bias 1-1
beat A. J. Bias 2-0
Ng Ping-kai (M.B.S.C.)—
beat Pereira 2-0
beat Silva 2-0
beat Remedios 0-2
beat Lok 2-0
beat A. T. Bias 2-0
beat A. J. Bias 2-0
L. M. V. Ribeiro (M.B.S.C.)—
beat Pereira 1-1
beat Lok 1-1
beat Remedios 1-1
beat Lok 1-1
beat A. T. Bias 1-1
beat A. J. Bias 1-1
beat A. J. Pereira (M.B.S.C.)—
beat Pereira 2-0
beat Silva 1-1
beat Remedios 0-2
beat Lok 1-1
beat A. T. Bias 1-1
beat A. J. Bias 2-0

Total 113
Bowling Analysis
Moreton 4 1 15 0
Hodkinson 8 1 31 1
Bradford 4 1 11 0
Wateridge 7 1 40 3
Folgy 8.5 3 10 5
Royal Engineers
Folgy, b Apps 1
Daniels, c Morris, b Apps 38
Moreton, c Howells, b Saunders 16
Col. E. St. G. Kirk, b Apps 17
Wateridge, c Morris, b Apps 6
Dudley, b Apps 6
Warr, b Apps 14
Collins, c Morris, b Westwood 2
Shipp, c Snookes, b Westwood 4
Hodkinson, run out 1
Bradford, not out 1
Extras 10
Total 111
Bowling Analysis
Apps 11 1 41 6
Snookes 9 0 27 0
Saunders 3 0 10 1
Westwood 5 1 22 2

AUSTRALIA 429 AT DURBAN

Chippierfield Hits Up 109

Durban, To-day. Continuing their innings yesterday morning, the Australians brought their overnight score of 280 for 4 to 429.

The South Africans had scored 167 for 3 when stumps were drawn. The first Test match on children to-day.

South Africa: 248 and 167 for 3 (Stedie 58).
Australia: 429 (S. McCabe 148, A. G. Chippierfield 109, W. Brown 66, F. Darling 60, A. E. C. Langston 4 for 113, and R. J. Cripp 4 for 57).—Reuter

Walter Lindrum And Clark McConachy For England Again

London, November 16.—Walter Lindrum, the Australian billiards player, has set up a new Canadian record by compiling a break of 350 at Vancouver. He thus beat his previous record of 310. The challenge of his young brother Horace, has been picked up by Joe Davis, for two snooker matches of 61 frames for £100 a side. Davis, the English champion, accepted the challenge, with the proviso that each week play be regarded separately and that Davis concede London in the spring.

seven points start in each game. Recently Lindrum, receiving seven points start in a series of snooker matches following billiards play, defeated Davis by 14 frames to 10. Walter Lindrum, by the way, and Clark McConachy, after New Zealand, may soon be in England again. Mr. J. C. Bisset, chairman of the Billiards Association and Control Council, has sent a cable inviting the pair to play in the world's snooker championship in London in the spring.

CHRISTMAS Gifts

that will appeal to the
GOLFER

are
SPALDINGS
"NEEDED" TOP-FLITE
and
"KRO-FLITE
GOLF BALLS
IN ATTRACTIVE
CHRISTMAS BOXES
of 3, 6 and 12 balls each

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I USED TO THINK
SMITH

AND JONES WERE
GOOD CHAPS

UNTIL I WAS LATE
FOR BREAKFAST

AND FOUND THEY'D
EATEN ALL THE
WALL'S SAUSAGES

Flavoursome Sausages . . .

brown and sleek, sizzling in the
pan . . . perhaps a rather or so,
but not too thin . . . a proper
English breakfast for a hungry
man . . . Wall's Sausages of
course.

Wall's Sausages, made from a
selected variety of choice in-
gredients skilfully seasoned and
blended by clever chefs in Wall's
scrupulously hygienic kitchens, are
sausages at their delicious best.

WALL'S SAUSAGES



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MEN'S BADMINTON DOUBLES LEAGUE CARD TO-NIGHT

Recreio "B's" Task
At Home

FIRE BRIGADE AND RECREIO
"A" SHOULD RECORD WINS

Five games in the Men's Doubles
Badminton League will be played
off this evening. Probably the best
game will be that between Recreio
"B" and Elliot Hall "A" as both
teams are very evenly matched.

The outcome of the match be-
tween the V.R.C. and the Chinese
P.C. is doubtful. St. John's will be
guests to Elliot Hall "B", and here
again the teams are fairly evenly
contested.

To-night's programme is as
follows:
Recreio "B" v. Elliot Hall "A"
Fire Brigade v. St. Andrew's "B"
Elliot Hall "B" v. St. John's
V.R.C. v. Chinese P.C.

TAIKOO WIN AT BADMINTON

Odd Set Victory In
Men's Doubles

The Taikoo Recreation Club re-
corded their second victory in the
Men's Doubles Badminton League
last night by defeating the Sal-
lors' and Soldiers' Home by the
odd set in nine at Wanchai.

It is worthy of note that al-
though they were beaten, the Sal-
lors' and Soldiers' Home aggre-
gated a total of 62 aces against
Taikoo's 148.

The results of the game were as
follows:—

A. Edwards and A. R. Brown (S.
and S. Home):—
lost to T. Stainton and J. Rout-
ledge 9-21
lost to C. Summers and A. W.
Norrie 19-21
beat J. Dovey and J. Gammell 21-15
T. Winfield and D. Waylen (S. and
S. Home):—
lost to Stainton and Routledge 18-21
lost to Summers and Norrie . . . 20-23
beat Dovey and Gammell 21-0
R. Cullons and J. Heath (S. and S.
Home):—
lost to Stainton and Routledge 19-21
beat Summers and Norrie . . . 21-23
beat Summers and Norrie . . . 21-11

League Table To Date

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
St. Andrew's "A"	4	4	0	32	4	8
Recreio "B"	5	4	1	33	12	8
Recreio "A"	4	4	0	31	5	8
C. R. C.	4	3	1	26	10	6
Fire Brigade	4	3	1	18	18	6
St. John's	6	3	3	23	31	6
St. Andrew's "B"	4	2	2	15	21	4
Taikoo R.C.	6	2	4	19	35	4
V. R. C.	4	1	3	11	25	2
S. and S. Home	5	0	5	17	28	0
Elliot Hall "A"	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elliot Hall "B"	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kowloon Tong	5	0	5	10	35	0

MATCHES POSTPONED

The Taikoo Recreation Club have postponed their Men's Doubles Badminton encounters against the Club de Recreio "A" and the Fire Brigade Recreation Club for to-night and to-morrow night, respectively.

HOCKEY CLASSIC TO-DAY

(Continued from Page 4)

Bates will probably play at left-half, while Tetley, who is shortly leaving for home, has been dropped.

Following his brilliant form in the Civilian trials, S. A. Fowler is a most likely selection for a forward berth in place of Mac-kay, who has not played in many games this season.

The following are the probable teams:
Royal Navy—A. B. Owens (Mid-way); Lt. Comdr. Broome (Rainbow); Lt. Comdr. Gubb (Mid-way); Lt. Comdr. "Bratt" (Duncan); Lt. Davies (Captain) (Duncan) and Lt. Comdr. McCoy (Mid-way); Lt. Lane (Dorchester); Sub. Lt. Wraith (Phonix); Sub. Lt. Batterbury (Duncan); Lt. Burch (Parthian) and Lt. Comdr. Banks (Perseus).

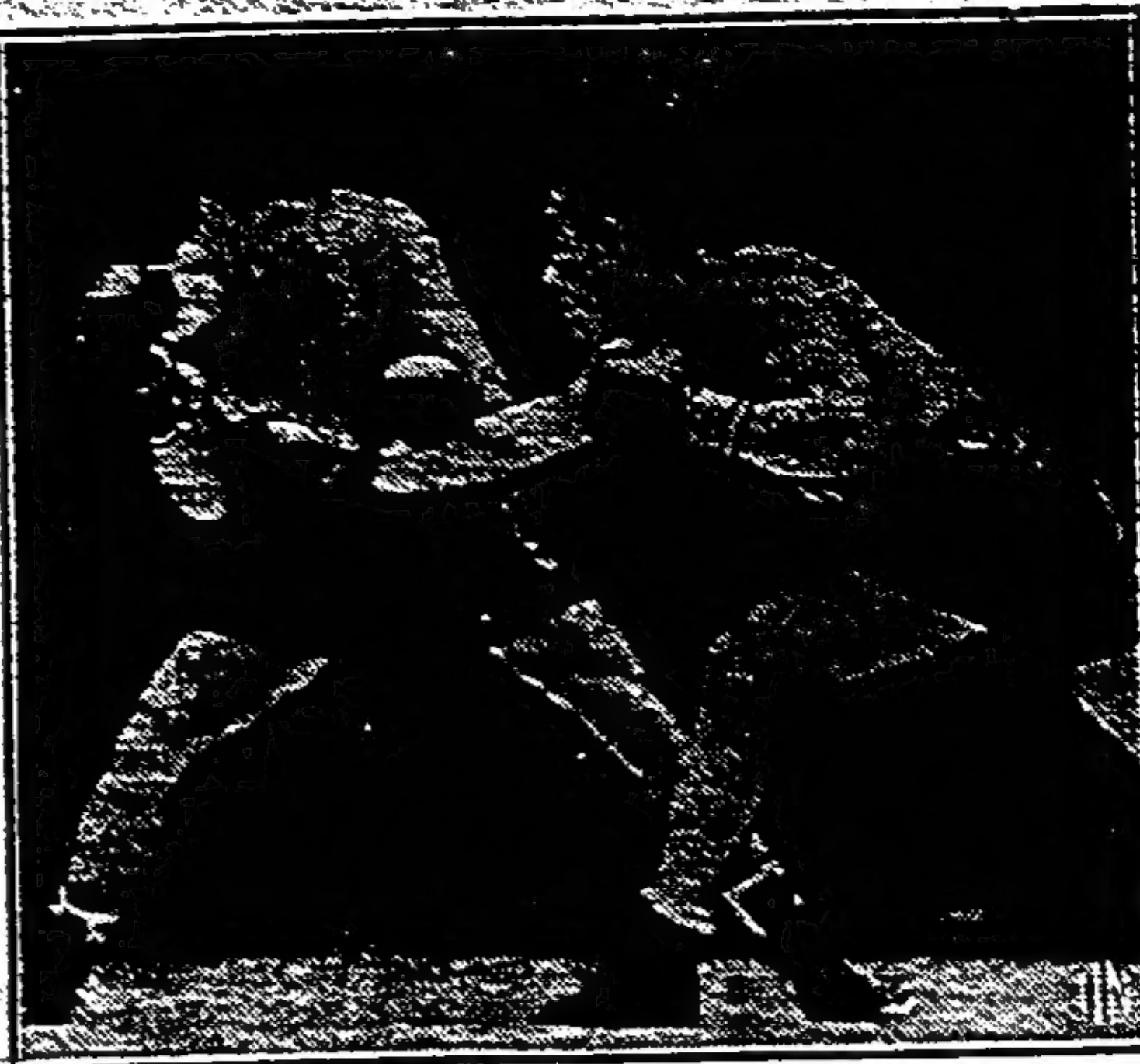
Club—H. S. Shields; J. E. Potter (Capt.) and G. Sommer; J. G. Cot-sworth; W. A. Reed and R. A. Bates; R. C. Woodhouse; S. A. Fowler; G. E. R. Divett; D. Carey and D. L. Nooy.

ADRIAN QUISTS TRIUMPH

(Continued from Page 4)

dominated matches. But this son of a State cricketer has enjoyed surprising singles triumphs be-fore.

A year ago he actually defeat-ed Perry in Melbourne with the loss of only two games in three sets.



Sidio Escobar (right) missed this wicked right intended for Lee Salica's chin in their New York title bout, but he landed so many others that the decision was unanimous in his favour.

Sports Chatter

(By GEOFFREY SIMPSON)

LORD HAWKE'S commendable effort to persuade the Aus-tralians to play their coming Test matches with South Africa under the new law rule has failed, it was revealed recently in Sydney.

While the South Africans are willing to make the experiment, as they did last summer in England, their Australian visitors are not.

Which will at once be construed by opponents of the change as a sign of Australian hostility to the rule. Actually, it is nothing of the kind.

It should be stressed that the cable sent by the veteran York-shire president to the Australian Board was quite unofficial and that some time before its receipt it had been agreed that the old rule should operate in the games with South Africa.

TAKING NO RISKS

THE Australians, naturally, wish to take no chances against a team who only a few months ago beat the might of England in a Test rubber.

And as they have had no expe-rience whatever of the new rule, their intention of getting some practice at it before trying it in Test matches is understandable. The rule was new to the South Africans when they came here last summer, but then they had a long programme of matches and had learned all the wrinkles by the time the first Test arrived.

PEARCE CUP SENSATION

(Continued from Page 4)

Miss M. Westcott, the senior left-winger has been brought into the forward line, probably on the left of Miss Adey, who will lead the line with Miss O. Dainton on the right, while Miss S. Dainton will drop back to the pivot position.

In the junior team, Miss J. Weller will be the "goal-kicking back" while Miss M. Gardiner will move up to the centre-half berth vacated by Miss P. McCaw. Miss M. George has been brought in as a wing-half in place of Miss R. Ingram.

These changes have materially weakened the two sides, and their chances, particularly the senior team of retaining the Pearce trophy, are now not very good.

SAPPERS BEAT POLICE "A" IN MAMAK MATCH

The Royal Engineers secured a meritorious win in the Mamak Hockey tournament yesterday, when they defeated the Police "A" by the only goal of the match at the Police Training School.

COMPENSATION FOR WALSH

A specialist, appointed by the Football League, has confirmed the view that Walsh, the Brentford forward, formerly of the Arsenal, is permanently unfit for football owing to knee injury. Walsh is thus assured of compensation.

THE BEST EVER

J. P. G. Lyaght's hitting (against E. Destrémont) in the Covered Courts Championships was the best I have ever seen anywhere—S. K. Doust.

WILL AGREE LATER
THE Australians are having nothing like such an exten-sive tour in South Africa, and if they had consented to Lord Hawke's proposal they would have conceded a definite advantage to their hosts.

In England the South African cricketers and the English players started from scratch with the new rule.

The Australians now experi-menting with it against E. R. T. Holmes' team are (Bradman apart) not yet in Test class, but I think it is a safe prophecy that when the leading lights have ac-customed themselves to the change Australia will be ready to come into line with us.

And that will surely be before the next Australia v. England series are due.

UNUSUAL RECORD

ALL the familiar names are once again leading the list of winning racehorse owners. But there is one name—that of Lord Stanley—in seventh place, which is fresh and therefore welcome.

His share of racing's prize money is £2,188, and the striking fact is that all of it has been earned by one animal—and that a leased one.

This is the filly Quashed, who won the Oaks and four other good races. And she may swell the total still further, as she is to be kept in training.

More than likely Quashed will run for the Ascot Gold Cup next season, which gives us the nice prospect of son opposing father, as Lord Derby will surely have a runner.

WRAGG'S LOSING RUN

ANOTHER unusual racing feat-ure is Harry Wragg's long run of losers. He has had 41 mounts since riding his last winner on October 19, and with the fast season fast coming to a close he must be wondering whether he will get his century.

Wragg has been on the 96 mark too long for his peace of mind, yet if you had backed all his 438 mounts for a level £1 stake you would be £18 9s. 6d. to the good.

Now take a similar case. R. Perryman has had 494 rides and 85 wins, yet he is over £135 on the wrong side!

NEW WORLD CHAMPION

Miss Joyce Gardner (London) reigned the women's professional billiards title, beating Miss Leman (Glasgow) in the final at Thurston's by 3,000-2,872. During the afternoon session Miss Leman had world's record break for a woman player of 153.

FIRST ROAD RELAY

History was made in women's athletics when the Oxford Ladies' A.C. organised a road relay race—the first of its kind for women—from their headquarters at Chigwell Row. Teams of six competed, each member running a lap of about 1½ miles, the total distance of the race being about 10½ miles.

TANNER FOR SLOUGH RUGBY CLUB

C. C. Tanner, former English international, will play, when available, for Slough Rugby Club.

MYSTERY OF JACK PETERSON'S DISAPPEARANCE

WHEREABOUTS NOT
KNOWN

"Pa" Speaks Of The
"Silly Stories"

(By W. F. SANDERSON)

London, November 13.
Where is Jack Peterson, the heavy-weight champion of Great Britain, hiding?

On Monday he returned from his honeymoon, spent on a cruise, and last evening he was expected at the Wembley arena, where heavy-weight boxers from all over the world were fighting.

When I saw "Pa" Peterson, the boxer's father, who has always done all the talking for this fight-ing family, and asked him if Jack was present, this was the reply that will surprise all those who know how close the champion and his father have been:

"Up To Jack"
"I cannot tell you whether Jack is coming or not. There is a seat for him next to mine, but I have not seen him or even heard from him since his return. I am told he is in London, but really I know no more than that."

I suggested to Mr. Peterson senior that it was time the mys-tery of the Peterson family was cleared up—"Pa" Peterson, of course, has been manager to his son.

"I agree with you," was his re-ply, "that it is time the silly stories were stopped. There is nothing to clear up so far as I am concerned, and it is up to Jack to clear the air."

Peterson did not turn up—the seat reserved for him was never occupied.

PORT VALE IN DUMPS

Driven to desperate measures by their disquieting position, Port Vale made a daring experiment at Leicester by playing an amate-ur, Roy Burns, as their outside-right, though he had never pre-viously appeared in League foot-ball.

He did not let them down. In fact, later in the match when moved to inside right owing to an injury to Johnson, he was one of the most successful members of the attack. It was, only on the previous day that Port Vale signed Burns from Wolverhampton Wanderers, for whom he had played as a reserve.

LORD DERBY TO RACE

Own Racehorse And Colours
For South Australia Centenary

London, November 21.
When South Australia next year celebrates the centenary of her settlement, she is anxious that Lord Derby should take part in the ceremonies. His fame on the Turf induced the Premier of the State, Mr. R. L. Butler, to ap-proach him on his recent visit to England.

Lord Derby, who has not been in Australia since 1887, has not yet given a decision as to his own journey. But he has decided to be represented by a racehorse of his own breeding to carry his colours on the South Australian turf. He will shortly choose the horse.

GADNEY AND CRAMER ONLY CERTAINTIES

(Continued from Page 4)

Obolensky, the fastest wing three-quarter in the game? I men-ty, ask the question.

Full-backs are scarce. Beyond a doubt. There are useful ones about—J. D. Ronald, for instance, and R. J. Barr and R. O. Baillon—but none of them goes obviously and inevitably into the side.

Pack Problem Acute

With the forwards our problem is still acute, though we should be able to find a scrummaging pack. Front row: D. Kendrew, E. Nicholson, and R. Longland. Second row: P. Dunkley, and A. Clarke, of Coventry. Third row: L. S. Bailey, P. W. P. Brook, and D. H. Swayne, if he is fit in time. How would that do?

And as reserves, or first choice even, there are such forwards as J. Dick, E. A. Styles, A. G. Crid-land, R. Willsheer of Bedford, D. T. Kempt, J. K. Watkins, and plenty of others. Outstanding front-row forwards are scarce, perhaps, but I think we may rely upon Messrs. Daniell, Oakes, and Prentice to find us a satisfactory pack.

One of my correspondents, in-cidentally, writing from Corn-wall, will tell me that actually there are too many back-row for-ward. He does not work, he is as often as not offside, he is a nuisance, and nothing more.

A familiar cry, and on general grounds I sympathise with it. The forward who lurks with intent, who hangs about waiting to snap up chances in the open, and does no real scrummaging—this for-ward, in my opinion, is a pest and better out of the game.

The intelligent back-row man, however, who does his share of shoving, has a definite part to play in modern tactics, and with him I have no quarrel.



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3A, Wyndham Street, Hong Kong.
Telephone 20022.

London Office:
7, Garrick Street, London, W.C.2.

Notice To Contributors.
All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Subscription Rates.
One Year H.K.\$36.00
6 Months H.K.\$18.00
3 Months H.K.\$9.00
Postage Abroad Extra

Hong Kong, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1935

Winter Charity

No sooner do we get our overcoats out of cold storage than there comes an outbreak of flag-days, all no doubt for worthy objects, promoted by societies that are woefully underfunded for the work they undertake. We know that our money will be well used. But this year it is difficult to maintain the old rate of subscription, and all the societies report a falling off of revenue. We had an unusually long spell of not weather, and that means that we shall very likely have a severe turn of cold.

It is also the usual thing that we discuss how the distress could be relieved on an adequate scale, and come to the conclusion that a remedy is hard to find, or impossible. Sir William Peel took great interest in the question of overcrowding, and in the end admitted that he could not think of any solution. There is the Society for the Protection of Children, for instance, which saves many lives with a few dollars, and might save many more, to say nothing of building up better nourished and more healthy children who would be happier as well as more useful citizens. The St. John Ambulance Association saves an amount of pain and illness that is altogether out of proportion to its slender resources. The Street Sleepers' Mission is practically a necessity, for after a long spell of heat such cold as we have had these last few nights would be fatal.

Only familiarity makes us callous to these demands. It is a bad time to ask the Government for bigger grants, though we do think that more might be done to help the voluntary associations by the appointment of Inspectors, as has been done in the case of the *Mui Tsai*. Is it really just that other equally helpless people should be comparatively neglected merely because no questions are asked about them in Parliament, and no delegates of the League of Nations come round to make an inspection? After all, the *Mui Tsai* system was invented to save children from starvation and does actually serve that purpose. To judge from the reports, they are much less exposed to the worst rigours of hunger and cold than many hundreds of children that receive no official attention whatever.

This year the early crop of charity was reaped by sellers of roses for the Confucian schools. We should not have selected that object as the most urgent and needy. In fact we should not have thought it a fit cause for a flag-day at all. When flag-days became a nuisance in England they were brought under regulation to prevent undue multiplication and misapplication of funds. Is there any objection to adding this function to the already manifold duties of the police? It would not seem that application for a date and the issue of badges would be a very onerous thing to deal with. Nothing damps the stream of charity more quickly than a doubt about whether receipts are properly applied and accounted for. But the argument that there would be no end to applicants if all were helped seems to demand a more radical treatment.

Our own suggestion, made several times before, is that in

EXPLANATION OF YESTERDAY'S CARTOON

A Tamed Porcupine

THOUGH the porcupine is a docile, peaceable little animal when left to go his own way, he is by reason of his powerfully defensive quills, feared by man and beast alike, when stirred to battle. Only in very rare instances have zoologists been able to tame a porcupine to any degree, but A. Dean Lindsay, of Tampa, Florida and Hollidaysburg, Pa., has one that he has tamed and domesticated himself. He keeps it around his home at all times, and carries it with him wherever he goes.

The Narrowest Building

What Philadelphians believe to be the narrowest building is a tiny, thin structure located on the S. E. corner of 13th and South Penn Square. The architect had a plot of ground just 4 feet wide and 75 feet long to build on, and the finished building measures exactly 43 inches wide and 50 feet long, housing a small counter lunch and soft drink stand, capable of accommodating 20 people at a time. And tiny as it is, the building has its own heating plant and mechanical equipment.

WOMEN SUFFER MOST

Harder Times In Prison

Nashville: Despite more careful treatment, women, have a worse time in prison than men, according to the Warden of the Tennessee State Prison, Mr. A. W. Neely.

The reason is the lack of interest shown in them by their friends and relations "outside." "The woman prisoner has very little company," the Warden explained. "I can't recall a single occasion when a husband came to see his wife in prison. On the other hand, wives never seem to forget their husbands who are behind the walls. It is a common thing to have a woman, with tear-filled eyes, plead with me for her husband's release. But I never remember a husband showing that much interest in his unfortunate wife."—Reuter.

the peculiar circumstances of Hong Kong, with its floating population in such close touch with a swarming population, we should abandon the hard and fast line drawn between the citizen and the alien, and revive the old status of denizen, with clearly defined rights. This would involve a register of all those who were in lawful employment of a more or less permanent description, enrolment on which would be granted on the application of the employee or his employer. There would be no need to make the procedure too formal, but anyone not enrolled after residence of three or six months should be gently impelled towards his native village. This is not equivalent to a hard-hearted abandonment to neglect. The indigent person returned as not wanted has a claim on his own relatives and on his village that he has not as a stranger here. The advantage would be that we could then set out to raise the standard of life for those who remained. The will to help would not be chilled by the reflection that all we could do would only be pouring our efforts into a leaky bucket.

Some time in the distant future the whole problem of population will have to be tackled. The three countries where there is the greatest amount of want and consequent unrest are Germany, Italy, and Japan. They have the highest birth-rate, and their Governments take the most lively measures to encourage a still more rapid increase. The object is frankly avowed as the wish to increase the military strength of the country, and the military strength is required to conquer new territory for the surplus population to live in. It is a perfectly logical principle, that other countries have no obligation to provide for such surplus population.

Here There and Everywhere

MAUGHAM'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

After an interval of several years spent mainly in his Riviera home and in London, Mr. Somerset Maugham is off on his travels again.

He left Southampton recently for the United States. Thence he will go to some island—this time not in the South Seas, but in the West Indies.

Mr. Maugham has just finished a novel form of autobiography. In it he describes various aspects of his life and his attitude towards them then and now.

The book will be published shortly.

HEBREW SCHOLAR

Dr. Kirkpatrick, Dean of Ely, who is retiring at the age of 86 is probably the foremost Hebrew scholar in England and was at one time Regius Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge.

He went to Ely in 1907, after nine years as Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, his connection with the University stretching back well over half a century, for he was a tutor at Trinity as long ago as 1871. Dr. Kirkpatrick celebrated his golden wedding last year.

Your Daily Smile!

There is a widely shared belief among Italian people in the existence of a war chest. If the one in question is that of Il Duce, it has been thrown out.

A SAMPLE

A writer addressed a magazine editor with: "Now, I'm positive you don't read them all. I submitted a story last week, and as a test, I pasted four pages together. When the story was returned, those pages still were pasted together." "Madam," he replied, "when I open an egg at breakfast, I don't eat it all to discover it's bad."

Pretty Name

"What a pretty name your maid has." "Yes. Of course, it's not her real name. We call her Dawn because she's always breaking."

Shake!

"I'm sure I have met you somewhere." "No doubt, I have been there often."

Smile Awhile

"What do you think of our candidates for Council?" "Well, I'm glad only one can be elected."

IS THE AEROPLANE SUPREME?

SECOND CORONEL MAY VISIT ENGLAND

POPULATION ENTIRELY OPEN TO HORRIBLE AIR ATTACKS

(By Capt. Norman Macmillan)

IN our front-line trenches in France during the height of the shell shortage in 1915 we were battered mercilessly by German guns. We asked our artillery for counter-battery fire. Do you know their answer in those days? They said they had already fired their meagre quota of shells for the day and could do nothing. Our torture by heavy shelling at the will of the enemy went on. Without possibility of retaliation, the flower of British youth risked their lives in payment for the crass stupidity of British unpreparedness.

Air war is artillery war. The bombing aeroplane is in effect a long-range gun. Territory lying within a range of 600 miles from the frontier of any country possessing military aeroplanes is front-line territory. If air war breaks out in Europe the total population of Great Britain will be in the front line and find themselves—as we soldiers found ourselves in 1915—battered mercilessly, unable to help themselves, and, as things now stand, without sufficient counter-battery bombing aeroplanes for retaliation.

Will Be Worse

The long-range artillery of the skies will shatter them as we were shattered. But it will be worse than it was with us. For those guns of 1915 could not cut our lines of communication; they could not cut off our food supplies; they were immobile. Mobile air artillery can cut off the food supplies of this country by attacks upon our docks and upon ships within our narrow seas.

Neither sea nor land forces could help the people of Great Britain. Naval operations cease at the land. Army operations cease at the sea. Air operations continue over both. The aeroplane can attack land, sea, and under-sea forces. Neither land nor sea forces can attack the aeroplane. Anti-aircraft gunnery is a form of static defence—not a form of defence by attack—for the gunners can only engage aeroplanes when aeroplanes themselves attack. Initiative lies with the aeroplane.

Ships' guns and land guns cannot search out the air bases of an enemy. Aeroplanes alone can attack aeroplanes and air bases. The aeroplane must be countered by the aeroplane. If our air fleet were inefficient in performance, if its air bases were so near our east coast that they were destroyed, if our bombers were too few in numbers and too short in range—what then?

Enemy Supreme

The aeroplanes of the enemy would be supreme. Neither our land nor our sea forces could attempt to counter-attack against the coastline of an enemy protected by mines, submarines, and bombing aircraft.

At Coronel the British ships were sunk because the German ships had greater gun range and speed. At Falkland the German ships were sunk because the position was reversed. Since the aeroplane is in effect a long-range gun, it can prevent surface ships from coming into engagement with one another, and decide naval action at a distance far beyond the range of any ship's gun.

Aeroplanes are not a screen to be thrown out in advance of ships, like destroyers. Aeroplanes are now the very guns of the ships themselves. Thus, sea strategy must be bent towards distributing the target-ships must be scattered instead of concentrated. The battle fleet with a heavy concentration of ships is rendered obsolete by the modern aeroplane. And the battle fleet that is scattered is no more a battle fleet.

Worse Plight

A fleet engaged by shore-based aircraft is in a still worse plight, for land aeroplanes are faster and have longer range and greater carrying capacity than those operating from ships.

Aeroplanes designed to operate from ships are handicapped by the limitations of the ship. Even with aircraft carriers there is a limit to the size of the aeroplane that can be accommodated in the ship and flown from its deck.

(Continued on Page 5)

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT" by Robert L. Ripley

LOVE BURRO EXPRESS!

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"SAY IT WITH SONG TITLES"

SECOND DAY'S STRIP

FREE SEATS AS PRIZES

To-day is the second day in the "song title" contest being run in conjunction with the screening during Christmas Week of the Warner Bros. picture "Broadway Gondolier."

Contestants are required to fill in the missing half of the conversations recorded on the accompanying strip with appropriate song titles. These strips will be published for three days more (one set having already been published yesterday); and at the end of the contest the five sets complete must be sent in to the China Mail offices not later than 12 noon on Monday next.



Two Dress Circle tickets will be awarded to the senders of the ten best lists in the opinion of the Competition Editor, whose decision is final.

LONDON EXPECTS BUSY CHRISTMAS

Best Season Since Depression

BUYERS ENCOURAGED BY ELECTION RESULT

London, November 27.

London's Christmas shopping season began in earnest yesterday. Only five weeks remain until Christmas, and more people than ever, it is expected, will take advantage of the annual appeal to "shop early."

The 1935 Christmas shopping campaign has been doubly affected by the General Election. Its start was delayed for a few days, but now that it has opened managers of leading department stores believe the season will be the busiest since the depression.

Not only the knowledge that the country is assured of a number of years' stable government is responsible; the recent remarkable improvements in industry are expected to have a marked effect upon the retail trade.

"We had striking proof to-day that many people were delaying purchasing Christmas gifts until they knew the result of the election," one sales-manager said yesterday. "Within an hour of our opening our doors this morning our special Christmas departments were full of customers, whereas last week business was comparatively quiet."

"A few years ago the public were less interested in Christmas, and the opening of special gift departments as soon as this would

To-day's Short Story

The Hampstead Murder

By Christopher Bush

LIFE is a curious thing. That has been said so many times and experienced so many more that it is trite enough to be boring. But surely its divergencies and its strange juxtapositions are not in themselves boring. Take from life its undoubted and verified coincidences, and where is the spirit of adventure?

Or again, trace to their first sources happenings that are momentous—at least to some people—and how trivial are the things that set them in motion. A man in Inverness lights his pipe with a paper spill and a man in Brighton breaks his leg—in consequence. Because of a bankruptcy in Cornwall a Yarmouth fishing smack goes down at sea. A man writes a letter to *The Times* and the result is the Hampstead Murder.

"A bit far-fetched, surely?" you say.

I don't know. Let's take a look at the last and then we may perhaps judge of the others. You may not recall the Hampstead Murder. There is no special reason why you should. It created no excitement whatever. A woman—a lady if you like—was found strangled in a drawing-room. The moose was round her neck and the affair could have been one of seconds only. It sounds rather horrible, but after all, as murders go, it was a clean and abrupt business.

Take, for instance, the room, smelling faintly of pot-pourri; charmingly furnished with a delightful period piece or two—some really excellent china; half a dozen water-colours that were friendly and yet possessed of an air; a carpet soft and seductive; chairs like the arms of Morpheus, and two superb Khorassan rugs.

Then there was the woman, in evening gown and shimmering intimacies; a couple of hundred pounds' worth of rings on her fingers, with a face like a surprised Madonna and hair like an aureole. There was no blood, no vulgarity, no signs of a struggle, but everything quiet and restrained; nothing, in short, but that deadly circle round the neck. Of course, later on there was the trial and the ultimate confinement during His Majesty's pleasure, but those things had to be.

From the charm of that detached house and its acre of tree-backed garden, it seems a long way to Porter-street, Mornington-crescent. There was a time, a very few years ago, when the Crescent had an air of grandeur, with the lift of its great trees and the old dignity of its houses. Porter-street still retained something of that charm even though its Georgian buildings had become flats and private offices.

In one of these on a certain morning late in May, Lutley Prentisse was sitting. He should have been working, but he was not. In front of his swivel seat were table and typewriter, and in the left-hand corner was a gas fire, turned very low. The room itself was small and decidedly cosy; one of a set of three which composed the tiny flat.

To the right a door led to the miniature kitchen, with its gas stove and dresser. In front was another door; probably that of the little sleeping room. If you had looked in you would have found it empty. But in the workroom itself the thing that caught one's eye was the tiered mass of books, scores of them, with multi-coloured backs that gave a note of gaiety. Without the display of any particular

not have been justified."

Hampers For Abroad. An early indication that this is to be a bumper Christmas has already been provided by the large number of gifts which Londoners have already ordered to be despatched to the Dominions. At a store which makes a speciality of hampers filled with seasonal provisions, it was stated yesterday that more parcels had been ordered for Australia in the last few weeks than for several years.

At the General Post Office, it was intimated that the Christmas post to Australia had been by far the heaviest ever recorded.

"We are making preparations for an exceptionally busy season," said an official, "and it is expected that we shall need the largest extra Christmas staff that we have ever had."

cular shrewdness you might have guessed that Lutley Prentisse was an author, and you would have been right.

The name was not a well-known one. He had, however, to his credit three novels, two having as theme the eternal triangle and the other concerned with those small coteries which are to be found in the Riviera. Of these novels the last had sold well, a matter of gratification to its author, but purely from pride of workmanship. Money is always useful, but another four or five hundred added to his own net fifteen would have made no enormous difference.

TO-MORROW'S STORY

To-morrow's story will be "Two Letters," by John Talland.

The fact of the matter is he had drifted back into writing almost without knowing it and as much as anything to escape from boredom. The first two years after his marriage had been for him affairs of rather foolish routine; Switzerland for mid-winter, the Riviera for the spring, in the summer Hindhead, with golf and tennis, then Deauville or some fashionable English resort. Finally in the late autumn was town, which meant the club, theatres and the multitudinous rush from morning to night.

Dorothy Prentisse fitted in well with all this. At golf, for instance, whereas her husband was a poor sixteen, she could give a single handicap man a thundering good game and play off the men's tees at that. At tennis she was one of those unspectacular women who seem somehow to get them always over the net.

She played a rattling good hand at bridge; a bit aggressive, perhaps, but rarely a loser unless cards or partners were impossible; quite different from Lutley, a cautious bidder if ever there were one; good for what he said and perhaps a bit more, but never less.

His golf, too, was that of the light-hearted who would rather beat a man of his own standing than worry about figures. So with his tennis; no craft or guile but good lusty hitting and the score to look after itself. In some ways you might have thought them an ill-assorted couple; he, short and sturdy, with quiet, brown eyes, a certain shyness and the air of an intellectual; she, tall for a woman, all curves and divinity, grace and distinction and yet with every quality that makes a man's woman, with all their polite jargon, their careless sporting chatter, and with it all that certainty of judgment which knew when to retire and make a background.

At Cambridge he had read his story, and for no special reason, and until his marriage, had occasionally written things for the reviews. It had probably been the finest success of these that had induced him, when the groove in which he was beginning to find himself became more and more apparent, to attempt something bigger.

Dorothy he had met at the Fosters', with the eldest of whom, Mifiam, she had been at school. Six months before that she had lost her father—vicar of Purfield Warren—and six months later she married Prentisse, a love match on his side if not on hers. Him one could see through; she was more inscrutable. Not only is it now the fashion to be unspouse-like but those eyes of hers were difficult to read.

A "Darling!" and a playful tap are no particular signs, especially when the other hand holds a foot-long holder for a cigarette. The comments at the time are, however, interesting. Her friends agreed that he had got a most attractive wife; her enemies that she had done uncommonly well for herself.

When Prentisse at first and almost surreptitiously returned to his writing, his wife seemed neither to mind nor to be interested. At the discovery of his activities it had been, "How frightfully clever of you, darling!" and then at intervals, "Oh, you poor dear, working so hard!" and on the publication of his first novel, "Darling, it's too frightfully thrilling for anything!"

(Continued on Page 10)

Christmas GIFT SALE

The pleasure of shopping at Our Store during Our Christmas Gift Sale will be to your advantage. Months of preparations have been made for this event. Our Stocks are as complete and attractive, and the Prices as low as it is possible to make them. Now is the time to buy your Christmas Gifts at Our Special Christmas Gift Sale.

SHOP EARLY AT OUR STORE (ONLY 6 DAYS UNTIL XMAS)
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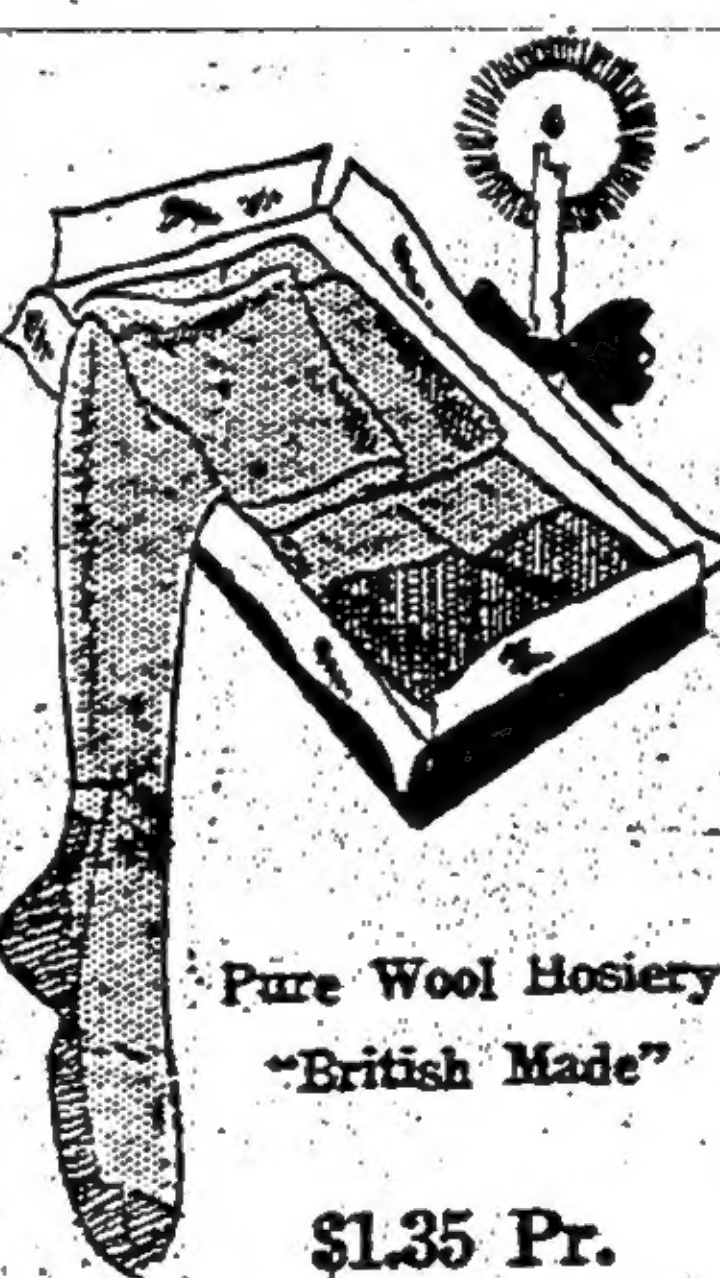
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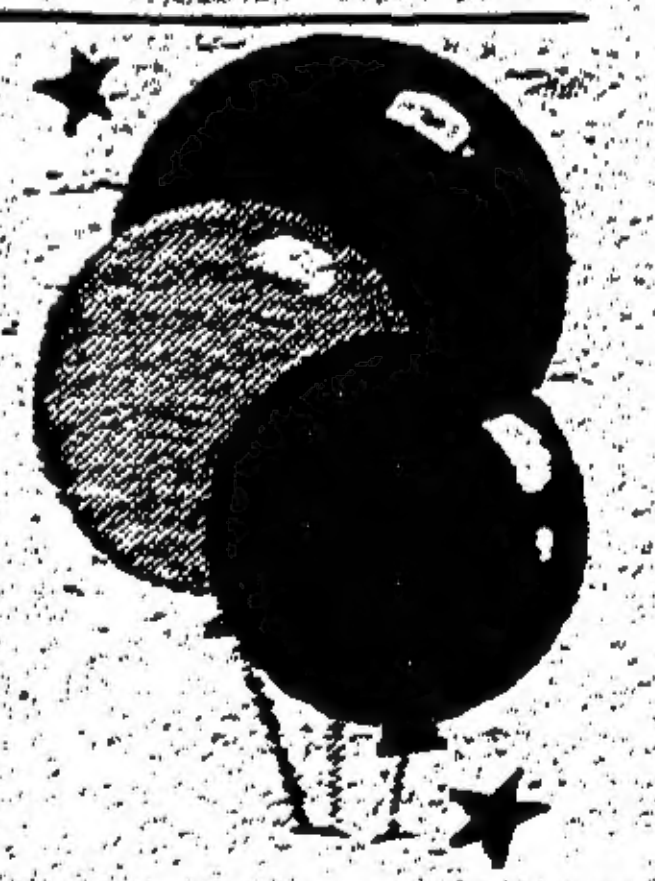
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"DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT"Christmas Pantomime
At Y.M.C.A.OPENING PERFORMANCE
LAST NIGHT

The opening performance of the Christmas Pantomime, "Dick Whittington and his Cat," presented by the Y.M.C.A. Amateur Dramatic Club, took place last night at the Y.M.C.A. before a large and appreciative audience.

Andrew Steele and Noreen Cooper as the Principal Boy and Principal Girl are attractive members of an excellent cast and add greatly to the success of the show, while catchy songs and the introduction of local colour brighten the performance.

The star turn of the evening was William Simpson in the role of Mary Ann, who put it over in his own humorous way much to the delight of all present. His special song and dance number, "Nobody loves a fairy when she's forty" was the hit of the show and well deserved the continued applause.

The children on their appearance won the hearts of all present especially in the Little Boy Blue number, in which they all excelled. Really a good show well worth seeing, and don't forget to take the kiddies to the matinee.

The "book" of the show was written by S. A. Sweet, who has skillfully introduced much local "colour," and the production was supervised by W. Robertson.

The pantomime comprises four acts, "Highgate Hill," "On Board the Frigate Polly," "The Palace of Doom," and "The Befriest." Temple Bar, London, making the second scene of the last act.

V. Petherick is responsible for the admirable scenery and the lighting was in the capable hands of W. E. Orchard.

The Cast

Dick Whittington - Andrew Steele
Alice Fitzwarren - Noreen Cooper
Alderman Fitzwarren -

W. Robertson
Mary Ann - Wm. Simpson
Idle Jack - Oscar Eager
Fairy Queen - Lillian Sharpham
Horace - D. K. Paul
The Cat - R. Salk
Sultan - D. Wilson
Captain - R. Wood
Mate - W. Forsyth
Sailor - W. Muir
Bosun - B. Bates
Grand Vizier - F. Anslow
Executioner - S. Tremlett
Policeman - T. Ingram
Guard - J. Lake
Guard - W. Chidlow

The Chorus

The chorus of Artisans, Sailors, Apprentices, Harem Ladies, Etc., were: Alice Powell, Edna Offord, Nora Fuller, Edna Martin, Ruth Ingram, Marjorie Westcott, Peggy McCaw, Edie Thomson, Isobel Holland, Gwen Lakeman, Jean Lakeman, Bertha Kent and Valerie Bocker.

Children: Winnie Ingram, Hazel Millington, Babs Jones, Joyce Hardie, Maureen Chester, Woods, Betty Moy, Pauline Strange and Wendy Anslow.

Fairies: Beatrice Champagne, Tania Churina, Eileen Sherriff, Dawn Digby, Pamela Crofton, Kitty Dedegion, Patricia Pasco, Gill Stokes and Peggy Murray. (Of the Volkova School of Dancing).

Orchestra

The orchestra comprised the following: Piano (Mrs. W. Sinclair); 1st Violin (Hubert Siedler); 2nd Violin (Barbara Brown); Saxophone (E. Huertas); Trumpet (A. Sarae); Drum (W. Iles).

Officials

Officials connected with the Pantomime include the following: Secretary (D. K. Paul); Seating Arrangements (A. J. C. Taylor); Behind the Scenes (V. Petherick); W. C. Bonn, E. Sweetman, E. W. Nicholas, F. Tindall; Make-up (Mrs. Lancheater); J. C. M. Greenham; Programme Ladies (T. Boker, M. Boker, R. Jordan, M. McCaw, B. Boryer).

The performance will be repeated to-morrow and Saturday nights and matinees will be given on Friday at 5.30 p.m. and on Saturday at 3.30 p.m.

M.P.'S REFUSE SALARIES

During last year six M.P.'s refused their Parliamentary salaries according to the Public Accounts Committee.



Edward Arnold, above, plays the title role in "Diamond Jim," to-day's attraction at the King's Theatre.

REVOLVER SHOOTING MATCHEmergency Unit Beat
Naval PicketTANSLEY AND RANSLEY BEST
RESPECTIVE SHOTS

A revolver shooting match with .32 calibre weapon was held on Sunday last at the Kennedy Road Range, between members of the Hong Kong Police Reserve Emergency Unit and the Naval Picket, and resulted in a win for the former by 197 points.

Five practices were fired, consisting of one application at 10 yards, one moving target at 15 yards and a stationary target at 10 yards; six rounds to be fired in 5 seconds.

Scores were:—
Naval Picket Emergency Unit Reserve
Ransley 118 Murray 77
Lindsay 82 Simmons 113
Westgate 73 Tansley 123
Clifton 61 Tippet 112
Bull 40 Lely 95
Treherne 40 Frost 91
Total 414 Total 611

"INDIFFERENCE TO HUMAN VALUES"Death Rates In
U.S.A.

HIGHEST IN WORLD

New York: Death rates in the United States from both accidents and homicide are the highest in the civilized world, according to a report issued by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. In an average year, the report shows, there are approximately 100,000 deaths from accidents, 20,000 suicides and 12,000 homicides.

This homicide rate is 18 times that of England and Wales. The accident rate is approximately double the British rate.

"A rather general indifference to human values" is blamed by the report for the high mortality rate from violent deaths—Reuter.

THIEVES BETRAYED BY PAINTChicken Stealers
Sentenced

Omaha.—A tin of red paint was splashed by a strong wind over a flock of White Rock chickens here. Then the chickens were stolen and the red paint proved the undoing of the thieves.

Police, scouring the countryside after the theft was reported, found 165 of the marked fowl in a poultry house.

A man and his wife and three other men were arrested in connection with the theft. The husband and wife pleaded guilty, the former being sent to prison for five years and the latter receiving a five-year parole.

The others were held for trial—Reuter.

"PHANTOM AVENGER" FIRES

The "Phantom Avenger," who has been responsible for five stack fires doing damage totalling £2,500 in England, was again active recently in County Durham. Shortly after midnight three stack fires were discovered in the village of Catchwite, three miles from Consett. Two messages written by the "phantom" were found.

MUNICIPALITY NEWS REPORTS FROM CANTONInner Harbour Near
CompletionREVENUE DECREASE OF
20 PER CENT.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Canton, To-day. River steamers from Hong Kong will have to dock inside the Inner Harbour upon its completion in the immediate future, according to an announcement of the Canton Municipal Government. Construction of this harbour opposite Shamoen has been in progress since August, 1933.

Municipal revenues from June to November are officially stated to amount to about \$2,737,400. Figures for the corresponding period a year ago were not given, although it is understood that the present sums represent a decrease of 20 per cent.

The new electric power station at West Village will be completed by next June, according to the same source. The machinery was supplied by a local German firm.

"UNDER GRADUETTE" ARRESTEDWould Not Talk To
Strange Men

Los Angeles: A pretty undergraduate who would not talk to strange men has been rewarded with a film contract!

"Hello Day" at the University of California is an annual event, a day on which all the undergraduates, men and women, must greet each other with a smile and "Hello," whether they know each other or not.

This year there was one girl who remembered that she would only speak to men she'd been introduced to. She was Marilyn Miller, aged 18, and she was "arrested" and given a mock trial for not saying "Hello" on "Hello Day."

Her picture appeared in a local newspaper and the result was a film test. Now Miss Miller has a contract and a part in the Ruth Chatterton film "No More Yesterdays"—Reuter.

JIMMY WALKER'S DOGSuffering From Home
Sickness

New York: The entire New York police force is looking for a wire-haired terrier called "Tim Sullivan" who was born and bought in London.

"Tim" was purchased by Mr. Jimmy Walker, the former Mayor of New York, when he first arrived in England. He shared his master's exile in Dorset, Surrey, and then went with him to the United States.

But, in New York "Tim" pined for his native London. One morning he disappeared. He has not been seen since.

Mr. Walker, who knows all the pangs of exile, sympathizes with his dog. He thinks he is probably on his way back to England.

The dog is described as having a reddish-brown coat and being "partial to women and very nervous"—Reuter.

AMERICAN ACTS ENGLISHMANOtto Kruger In British
Film

Hollywood (California).—For the first time in history, so far as Hollywood can remember, an American actor is coming to England to star in a British film—as an Englishman.

He is Otto Kruger, born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1885. "I believe that it shows that one more barrier between Hollywood and the British film industry has fallen," he said in an interview.

WESTERN IDEAS IN MONGOLIA

The modern ideas of the west have penetrated into the heart of the Mongolian political centre in Pekingman with the opening recently of a foreign-style hotel.

FIRE-FREE CRASHES A POSSIBILITYBelgian Engineer's
Invention

SUITED TO BIG MACHINES

Brussels.

A new device to eliminate the danger of an aeroplane bursting into flames after crashing is undergoing satisfactory tests here. Invented by the Belgian aircraft designer Renard, it enables the whole petrol tank of an aeroplane to be dropped off in the event of a crash or bad landing being unavoidable.

The ordinary valve used on many machines takes nearly two minutes to empty the tanks and then it frequently sprays the fuselage of the machine with petrol.

The new device immediately drops the complete tanks from special holders, operated by a simple lever.

The invention is claimed to be particularly suited to big machines carrying their petrol tanks in the wings.—Reuter.

BRITISH AIR LINER WRECKEDAtalanta Crash In
Kenya Colony

Nairobi.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh was one of nine passengers in the Imperial Airways liner Atalanta, which was wrecked when it hit a tree in taking off at the Kisumu Aerodrome at 4 a.m. on Nov. 4. The pilot, Capt. P. C. Ginn, who was bruised, and First Officer D. W. Reid, who fractured his collar bone, were taken to hospital.

The passengers were only shaken.

The Atalanta was being employed for relief purposes to make up some of the lost time on the south-bound service, originally due to Mediterranean storms. Lord Balfour of Burleigh was travelling in Africa on business.

The Atalanta is the first of a fleet of eight aeroplanes—which known as of the Atalanta class—which altogether have flown more than 2,000,000 miles. None of their passengers has been injured.

CARRY A GAS GUNAmple Protection
Afforded

Washington: Carry a tear-gas gun as protection against bandits—not a revolver! That is the advice of Mr. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, better known as the "G-Men."

"A tear-gas gun is just as effective in protecting a person against attack," Mr. Hoover declared at a press conference, "and believe me it's much safer for the average motorist or private citizen. A dose of tear-gas will incapacitate a criminal."

Fire-arms require a certain amount of technical skill in operation, whereas a gas gun can be used effectively with a little practice.

Mr. Hoover regretfully added, however, that he personally had no authority to grant permission to individuals to carry gas guns.—Reuter.

Alleged Utterance Of Forged Bank Notes

Wong Fuk-ko this morning pleaded not guilty to two counts of uttering a forged \$50 bank note, purporting to be one issued by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and with the possession of seven other forged notes of similar denomination, when he appeared before the Acting Chief Justice, Mr. K. E. Lindell, at the Criminal Sessions in the Supreme Court.

The following jury were empanelled to try the case: G. R. Wicheil (Foreman), Chu Han-chang, Kow, Chin-pai, V. A. Mervin, J. C. Y. Ribeiro, R. J. Tebbutt and T. O'Neill.

M. E. H. Williams, Assistant Attorney-General, who appeared for the Crown, in outlining the facts of the case stated that the accused went into a shop in Queen's Road Central and purchased a quantity of satin to make a suit. The cost of the material was \$11 and in payment of this he proffered a \$50 bank note.

LOCAL NEWS BREVITIES

With the assistance of Mrs. Douglas Orr, the Directress, the children of the Toloma Kindergarten yesterday afternoon gave a most successful entertainment at St. Andrew's Church Hall.

One case of diphtheria and one of cerebro-spinal fever were reported to the Health Authorities for the 24 hours ended on December 16.

The R.M.S. Empress of Asia left Vancouver for this port on December 14, and is due here on the morning of Thursday, January 2, 1936. She will leave the same evening for Manila.

In the absence of Mr. J. Miller, who let for Shanghai this morning by the a.s. President Lincoln, Mrs. Miller will take charge of the betting and call-overs for future local race meetings.

The R.M.S. Empress of Japan left Shanghai this afternoon and is due here on Friday morning. She leaves for Manila the same evening.

Among the passengers of the President Lincoln, which sailed for the North at 6 a.m. to-day, are Mr. Jack Miller, organiser of the Victoria Club, and Miss Betty Pestonji.

Only evidence of identity was taken at the first hearing, before Mr. W. Schofield at the Central Magistracy yesterday afternoon, of the extradition proceedings against Yu Lap-fai, alias Li Chi-on, alias Li Shek-yu, aged 47, who is being sought by the Nanking Government on a charge of conspiracy to murder Mr. Wang Ching-wei, at Nanking. Mr. D. L. Strellett conducted the case for the Crown and Mr. P. H. Sin appeared for the defendant.

JACKAL SENDS 50 PEOPLE TO HOSPITALSavage Attack On
Village

EVENTUALLY KILLED

Madras.—Fifty people are receiving hospital treatment in Bellary for injuries inflicted by a jackal.

The jackal entered a neighbouring village at night and snapped at sleeping villagers. Thirty-five persons were bitten. Then the jackal vanished.

Next morning the animal appeared in the village again, and savagely attacked another 15 villagers as well as a number of cattle, dogs and fowls. Eventually a crowd of villagers surrounded the jackal and killed it.

All the victims of the animal have now arrived at the Government Hospital at Bellary for treatment against rabies.

COAL MINING RECORD

A new record for coal mining has been established by Mikhail Pavlov, a Soviet miner at the Angero Sudien coal mine, who has produced 921 tons of coal in a six-hour shift, using a pneumatic drill.

HOW COLDS ARE CAUGHTSurgeon On Risks
Of Hot BathsOVER-EXCITEMENT IN
CROWDED CINEMAS

Hot baths, sudden changes, and the close atmosphere and excitement in theatres and cinemas were recently described as frequent causes of colds by Mr. William Ibbotson, ear, nose, and throat surgeon. He was lecturing to members of the Institute of Hygiene, at Portland-place, W.

"If any of you desire a cold," he said, "sit in one of the upper reaches of a cinema house and have your emotions profoundly stirred by some intense drama, especially about love."

"There is something more than mere heat and crowding. The energy expended is probably much greater than is realised."

Mr. Ibbotson said that the extraordinary sudden changes to which people subjected themselves were one predisposing factor in the onset of colds. Added to this, many persons depleted their skins of natural resisting power by too frequent hot bathing. Some even bathed twice a day.

Strain On Resistance

"I cannot believe that such courses tend towards robust health," he said. "To emerge from a centrally-heated house, especially a luxuriously-appointed hotel, or from a hot, crowded theatre into a cold, wet atmosphere, is placing a strain upon the resistance."

The increase in the number of swimming-pools and baths had added to the cases of nose, throat and ear infection. There were always more such cases after the summer holidays.

Mr. Ibbotson said that many school children suffered from lack of power to concentrate, largely because of nasal obstruction. It was no uncommon experience for mothers to report that their children had gone up into the next class at school within a short time of treatment for removal of an obstruction in the nose.

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1 Qt. Martell's XXX Brandy.	1 Qt. Vino de Porto Sherry.
2 Qts. John Haig Gold Label Whisky or McCallum's Perfection Whisky.	1 Phial Pomeranian Bitters.

No. 3 HAMPER—\$40.

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	Manila Maru	Mon., 3rd Feb.
MELBOURNE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY, WELLINGTON & AUCKLAND direct.	Taijin Maru	Wed., 18th Dec.
	Choko Maru	Sat., 4th Jan.
BOMBAY & KARACHI via Singapore, Penang and Colombo.	Hamburg Maru	Fri., 20th Dec.
	Shunko Maru	Thurs., 2nd Jan.
CALCUTTA via Singapore, Belawan, Deli, & Rangoon.	Argun Maru	Mon., 23rd Dec.
JAPAN PORTS	Kine Maru	Sat., 21st Dec.
JAPAN via Takao & Keelung	Canada Maru	Thurs., 9th Jan.
KEELUNG via Swatow and Amoy	N. 26 Kyodo M.	Thurs., 19th Dec.
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THE HAMPSTEAD MURDER

(Continued from Page 7.)

Thereafter it might have been said by the unkind that her encouragement of his efforts was not unconnected with the material advantages which she from time to time obtained; here a piece of jewellery and there a special cheque.

But the spring months of this particular year had seen a definite locking against the tricks. Prentiss had definitely refused to take his work down to the Riviera. His wife had, however, kept to the accepted routine and had gone to Nice with a small circle of friends. But her husband had taken the tiny flat in Porter-street for his work and slept at the club.

A fortnight previously, she had returned and it had been decided that they should go down to Hind-head together.

Then two things happened. The day of her return her only sister had been taken seriously ill and Dorothy had gone down to Carnforth. Moreover, the book was not finished. Another day or two would see it off to the publisher and in the meanwhile he remained at the flat. In the morning he was in the habit of putting in his best work. After lunch what he did depended on his mood, but more often than not he returned to his writing.

At the moment he was annoyed, and over what seemed a trivial thing. In his hand he held a copy of *The Times*, and it was at a certain letter that he was scowling. A policeman had written rather indignantly on the treatment of his profession by writers of detective novels. The police, he affirmed, were treated by them like buffoons, and authors rarely made the slightest attempt to familiarise themselves with the working of the Criminal Investigation Department.

It was not, however, the police and their methods that were worrying Prentiss, but the whole principle which the letter called in question. He himself had always been careful to use in his books only such local colour as he was familiar with and matters with which he had at least a working acquaintance.

But in this last novel he had made use of something of which he was not absolutely sure: a private detective agency. The chapter concerned was almost the last in the book and, anxious as he had been to get the whole thing over and done with, he had taken a good deal for granted. Such an agency would have, for instance, an office. Well, offices were much of a muchness, and its appearance could be guessed. And so with the imaginary head of the firm, the conversation, and all the things that go to make up colour.

Some people would have seen no connection between *The Times* letter and the chapter in question. They would have argued that in any case a private detective was very little likely to set eyes on the book and that the man in the street, provided the book held him, would not care the proverbial twopenny about the correctness of its colour.

But such a point of view was contrary to his own meticulous mind. He was, moreover, a thing

of impulses and strange obstinacies. At the moment there seemed to him to be nothing for it but to visit such an office and check up the chapter in the light of the new impressions. Hence, therefore, his annoyance.

Such a visit would be a frightful nuisance. There was, of course, the chance that his shrewd guesses had been reasonably correct and that the chapter would not have to be rewritten, but whether that were so or not, there would be the time wasted over the visit and that just when the book was virtually finished. To ignore the letter seemed to him to be mere carelessness. After that policeman had finished, heaven knew what people and professions would be writing to the Press about the complacent ignorance of authors. They might even set as far as names.

Dear Sir,
Is a novel by Lady Prentiss entitled "Tingling Symbols," I was very caused to find.....
At lunch he ran into George Foster and they had the meal together.

"Suppose you haven't seen anything of St. John Claire?" asked Prentiss. "I rather expected him to be in the club."

"Saw him about an hour ago," said George. "He's going down to Cheltenham to play for the Pilgrims to-morrow. They've got a two-day match against Peronne College."

"Two-day? They can't play on Sunday?"

"Oh, yes, they can." Peronne are Catholic and it doesn't matter a cuss to them."

Prentiss took a sip of his coffee and decided to ease his mind. "I rather wanted a tip or two from him. Bit of local colour for a book. His uncle's Chief Commissioner."

"Police information? Why don't you go straight round to Scotland Yard?"

"Well, you see—er—well, it's like this. It's not police routine I want; it's the methods of the private detective people; not the comic ones, the real thing. He was talking about it the other night in a rather well-informed way. I thought he might recommend me a chap to see."

"If that's all you want, young feller," laughed Foster, "you're damn lucky." He handed out a list of miscellaneous papers from his pocket and found a card.

"Here's a frightfully good chap. Pal of mine—can't tell you his name—had him for a job of work. You go along and spin him a yarn."

Prentiss took the card and went along. He had no particular idea about what he was going to do. A peep into the office was one important thing; the general air of the place, how people spoke, a pen picture of the principal and his subordinates were others.

His taxi deposited him at the door of 173, Took-street, and on the second floor he found the notice he wanted.

**PERRING AND HOLT
PRIVATE INQUIRY AGENTS**
He knocked and the door was opened by a clerk.

"Can I see one of the principals, please?"

"Take a seat, please, sir. I think Mr. Holt is in. Have you a card, sir?"

Holt was in and Prentiss passed through the outer room into an office crisscrossed with filing cabinets and books. There was the usual flat-topped desk and swivel chair.

Holt, a short, dapper-looking man, rose and held out his hand.

"What can we do for you, Mr. Prentiss?"

"Well, er....."
Holt smiled reassuringly. "Secrets are safe with us, sir. We handle affairs of the utmost delicacy, and whatever is mentioned in this room goes no farther. You can rely on us, Mr. Prentiss."

Prentiss thought rapidly. He couldn't, very well say: "I'm writing a novel and I'm here to pick your brains." Then he thought of the exact context in his novel and wondered if it would be possible to fit it in. Still he hesitated.

"It was a fairly trivial matter. That's no concern of ours, sir. If it's private inquiry work, we can undertake it, trivial or not."

"Well, this is very reassuring," said Prentiss, still playing for time. "Is it possible for you, I take it, to watch the movements of any person indicated to you?"

"Most decidedly, sir," Holt promptly set down in the swivel chair and took up a pencil. Prentiss was still thinking furiously

"Name, sir?"
"Lutley Prentiss."
Holt smiled tolerantly. "Not your name, sir. That of the person you require to be watched."

Prentiss smiled too, but not at the mistake he had made. Indeed, he almost laughed, so irresistibly comic was the idea that had come to him. But he kept a straight face.

"Oh, yes, of course. Mr. St. John Claire."

"Address?"

"3, Oudenarde Mansions, Kensington."

"And what exactly do you want, sir, and when?"

"Just a report in confidence by Monday of what he does from now until then. You can manage that?"

"Most decidedly, sir. Where do you wish the report delivered?"

"5b, Porter-street, Mornington-crescent. About noon, if you can manage it."

There it was left. Prentiss chuckled to himself as he went down the stairs. They'd have a bit of a job in picking up the trail in the first place and a damnably interesting piece of surveillance for the second. He walked back to the club and finding no sign of Johnny there, rang up Oudenarde Mansions.

Claire's man Daniels answered the phone. Mr. Prentiss was just a minute too late. Mr. Claire had left a moment or two ago by taxi. Yes, Daniels thought he had gone to Cheltenham; at least Mr. Claire hadn't mentioned any place, but he'd taken the big cricket bag and a suitcase.

That was rather trying. Prentiss was glad he'd hit on Claire. A less intimate friend of the family might have been somewhat ruffled when he was informed of what had been going on. What was the best thing to do now?

Send a wire to Cheltenham perhaps. But first of all there were those impressions to jot down and that description of Holt. By the time he had got to the flat and finished his notes he had thought of another idea.

The wire to Cheltenham couldn't be very detailed or explicit. Far better type a letter with a carbon, one copy for town and the other for Peronne College. He'd be bound to get one of them even if the second one were a bit late. It would be a fearful rag, too. He hoped the Pilgrims wouldn't chivy the life out of that detective of Holt's when they spotted him.

Dear Johnny,
I expect you'll think me—the most egregious ass but I've done a most ridiculous thing and in your name. I was desperately in need of some local colour for an important chapter of my book—something dealing with private inquiry agents—and paid a visit to one of them. They rather had me up a gum tree by insisting on a job of work. George Foster had just told me that you were off to Cheltenham with the Pilgrims for a two-day match so I told them to keep an eye on you for this week-end. Perfectly appalling of me but I'll know you'll see the joke. I hope this letter catches you at

(Continued on Page 11)

CONSIGNEES' NOTICE

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THURSDAY, DEC. 26—EN ROUTE

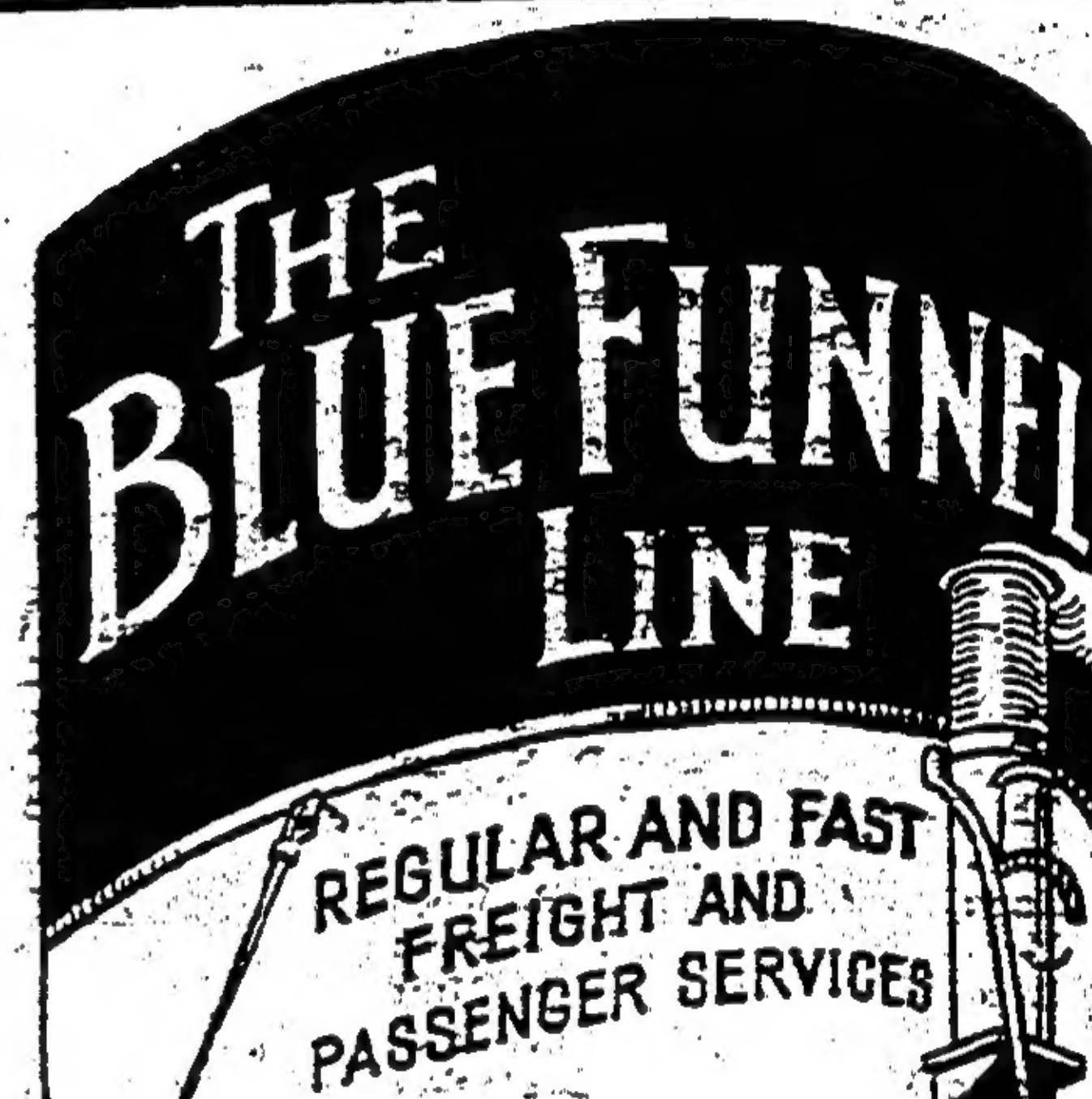
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CHANGTE	14	Apr.	1936	24	Apr.	1936

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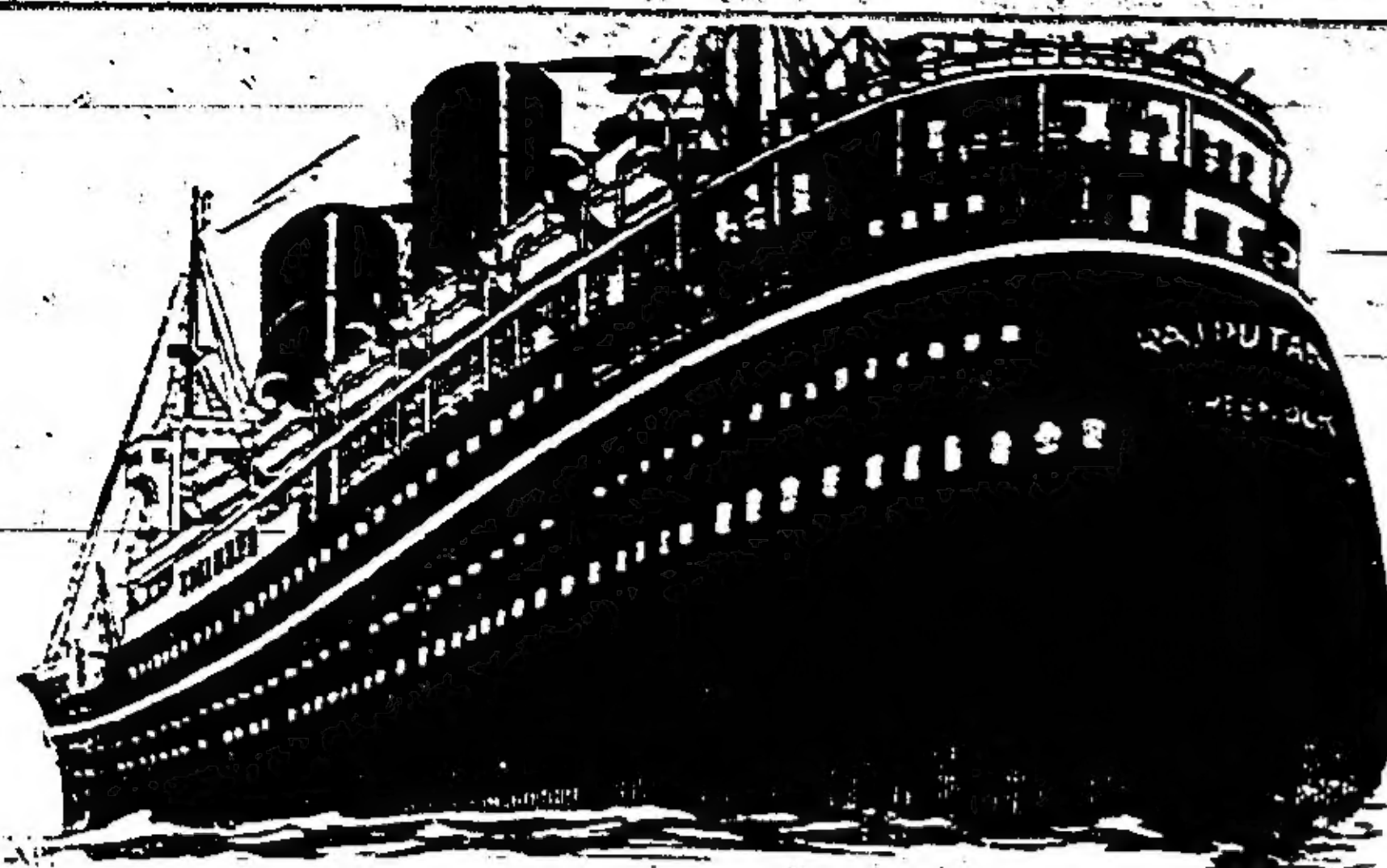
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RAJPUTANA	17,000	25th Jan.	Bombay, Marseilles & London
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THE HAMPSTEAD MURDER

(Continued from Page 10.)

Cheltenham if so look out for the sleuth, but please don't lead him too much of a dance.

Come and have dinner with us on Monday. I expect Dorothy will be back from Carnford.

Yours,
L. P.

The letters were sent off, one to the Kensington flat and the other to:

St. John Claire, Esq.,
c/o Pilgrims' Touring Side,
Peronne College,
Cheltenham.

That evening he worked later than usual, redrafting the chapter as far as the afternoon's interview made necessary. The following day he treated himself to a compensatory holiday at Walton Heath. The weather was gorgeous and a couple of rounds, split by an excellent lunch, put him in great fettle. Then back to the club for dinner and bridge, and a day ended which he had been rather dreading.

Things were apt to be a bit dull with Dorothy away again and so soon after her return. Rogers and the Daimler down there too made all the difference, and personally he hated trains like the devil.

Somewhere about noon on the Sunday he rang up Carnford Hall and Phipps, the butler, answered.

"I'm sorry, sir, but Mrs. Prentiss isn't back from church yet. She'll be in at any moment now, sir. Yes, sir, the mistress is much better. The doctor is very pleased with her. Are you there, sir? Just hold on a minute, sir, will you? I think I hear Mrs. Prentiss's voice in the garden."

In less than a minute Dorothy Prentiss was on the phone.

"Hallo! That you, darling? How sweet of you to give me such a surprise!... Oh, simply worn to a shadow, darling," and so on for another five minutes with airy nothings that concern us little.

As a matter of fact the only important thing was that she was returning to town on the following afternoon. She wished he had not asked Johnny Claire and just when she wanted him all to herself.

Lunt and the maids were back already. Didn't he know that? "But with all that work, you poor darling..."

Sharp to time on the Monday Holt arrived, and like a man who has been given a job of work to do and knows that he has done it well.

He produced a packet of closely typed sheets. Prentiss glanced at them as undramatically as possible, looked impressed and then asked how much. Holt handed over the bill—thirteen pounds, fourteen shillings. The other wrote out a cheque and got a receipt. He promised, moreover, that any further



Jack Haley and Ann Sothern are in "The Girl Friend," a Columbia picture, which is coming to the Alhambra Theatre next Thursday.

business should undoubtedly be entrusted to the firm of Perring and Holt.

A pretty expensive job that, he thought. Nearly fourteen pounds for the view of an office and a stamped receipt! It rather looked as if it would be Johnny who had the final laugh. Then he opened the packet and glanced at the type-written sheets. Had the detective chap been spotted or had he spent the two days in a deck-chair in the enclosure? Then the first words caught his eye.

The party was picked up from the address given at 3.15 p.m., and followed to Waterloo Station where he took a train for Dorking. Here he was met by a saloon car driven by a lady. The car proceeded to Justin Friars, six miles away, passed right through the village and stopped at a large house standing in its own grounds, called Friars House.

The couple put the car up in the private garage and entered the hall going then straight to the bedroom above where they remained for about half an hour.

When they came down they had tea in the drawing-room, facing south. Just before twilight they walked round the rose garden together and once or twice during their stroll were observed to embrace passionately. There appeared to be no servants in the house.

That was enough for Prentiss. He was horrified. Good God! What would Claire think? What a perfectly poisonous mess he'd got himself into by doing such a damn silly thing as to go to those agents.

But there might be a chance after all. If Johnny wasn't back at Kensington and by a miracle the Cheltenham copy had gone wrong, it wouldn't be too late. He grabbed his hat and sprinted down the stairs. In two minutes he was

through to Oudenarde Mansions.

"Who's speaking, please?.... Oh, that you, Daniels? Mr. Claire in?..... That's good. Listen carefully, Daniels. It's frightfully important. There was a letter from me on Saturday morning or late on the Friday night. You didn't send it on to Cheltenham by any chance?..... Good. Will you let me have it at once? Just keep it and I'll pop round for it in a minute or two. If Mr. Claire comes in don't mention it..... What's that?.... Good God!.... Oh, no; nothing serious. Just annoying; that's all. He didn't leave the address?..... Thank you, Daniels. Good-bye."

That hadn't torn things; it had ripped them clean in half. The first letter had been returned from Cheltenham and when Claire had come in about noon Daniels had brought them both in. A minute or two later the man had received urgent orders to pack up everything likely to be wanted for a three months' tour in Egypt.

Claire himself had left the house only a few minutes before and had told his man that he would receive later instructions where to pick him up.

It was a worried Prentiss who came back to Porter-street after lunch. Why the devil had Claire gone off like that and without even a word? Surely he had sense enough to know that his secrets were safe. There wasn't a man living who would be such an outsider as to go blabbing or even hinting about that sort of thing.

He must have sat there a good half-hour thinking things out. How to get hold of Johnny to explain; that was the desperately important thing. And why had he gone to Egypt, and in the hot season, too? Then a brainwave.

Perhaps that infernal report would give some hint of his whereabouts. Once more he pulled out the sheets and skimmed them rapidly. The usual stuff; love of a kind in a cottage of a kind. He must have cut that match, too, for the report covered all the Saturday.

On the Saturday night a ladder was placed against the window of the bedroom which the couple were occupying as soon as they had put out the lights. The following conversation was overheard:

"Darling, are you sure you can trust Phipps?"

"Of course, you silly boy. He'd do simply anything for me. Besides, I shall be over to-morrow in any case."

"And what about Rogers?"

"The sound of kissing made the answer inaudible and the voices then became a murmur."

Something seemed to stand still with Prentiss. His heart stopped beating and then, ages after, raced like a mad thing. In a mechanical sort of way he seemed to be running his eye over the sheets and

not until the end did he pause as if he were reading seriously. Even then he looked like a man who had had a long illness.

She did not accompany him on to the platform but they kissed each other good-bye in the waiting-room. The only words to be heard were, "I shall blow you a kiss behind his back the next time he is there with us," to which she replied, "Will you, darling boy? But you mustn't forget and call me baby names." They both laughed at this.

It was not until half an hour later that he left the flat. The caretaker's wife whom he passed in the passage said afterwards that he looked straight through her in such a way that she felt a wave of fear pass over her and ever since then she had been unable to get from her mind the deadly intensity of his expression.

Whether or not he was mad at the time is a debatable point. How different men will react to the stress of different emotions is equally debatable. But that a man of his fine nature, a man sensitive and artistic to the soles of his feet, should otherwise have done what he did is incomprehensible.

At first his movements seemed reasonably rational. He took the Tube for Hampstead and made his way to the house. There he put the telephone out of order. He took possession of a telegram and a letter delivered by hand for his wife, and gave Lunt, the house-keeper, strict instructions not to say anything about either of them.

He also declined the tea which she wished to bring in. His manner, she said, did not seem to her abnormal, he was as quietly courteous as he always was. A bit serious perhaps, but nothing to take notice of.

Then he went out again. At a music shop he purchased two violin E strings, and asked the assistant to join them for him. When next he went in, not certain but it is known that he spent some time

in a telephone box. At about 7.15 not until the end did he pause as if he were reading seriously. Even then he looked like a man who had had a long illness.

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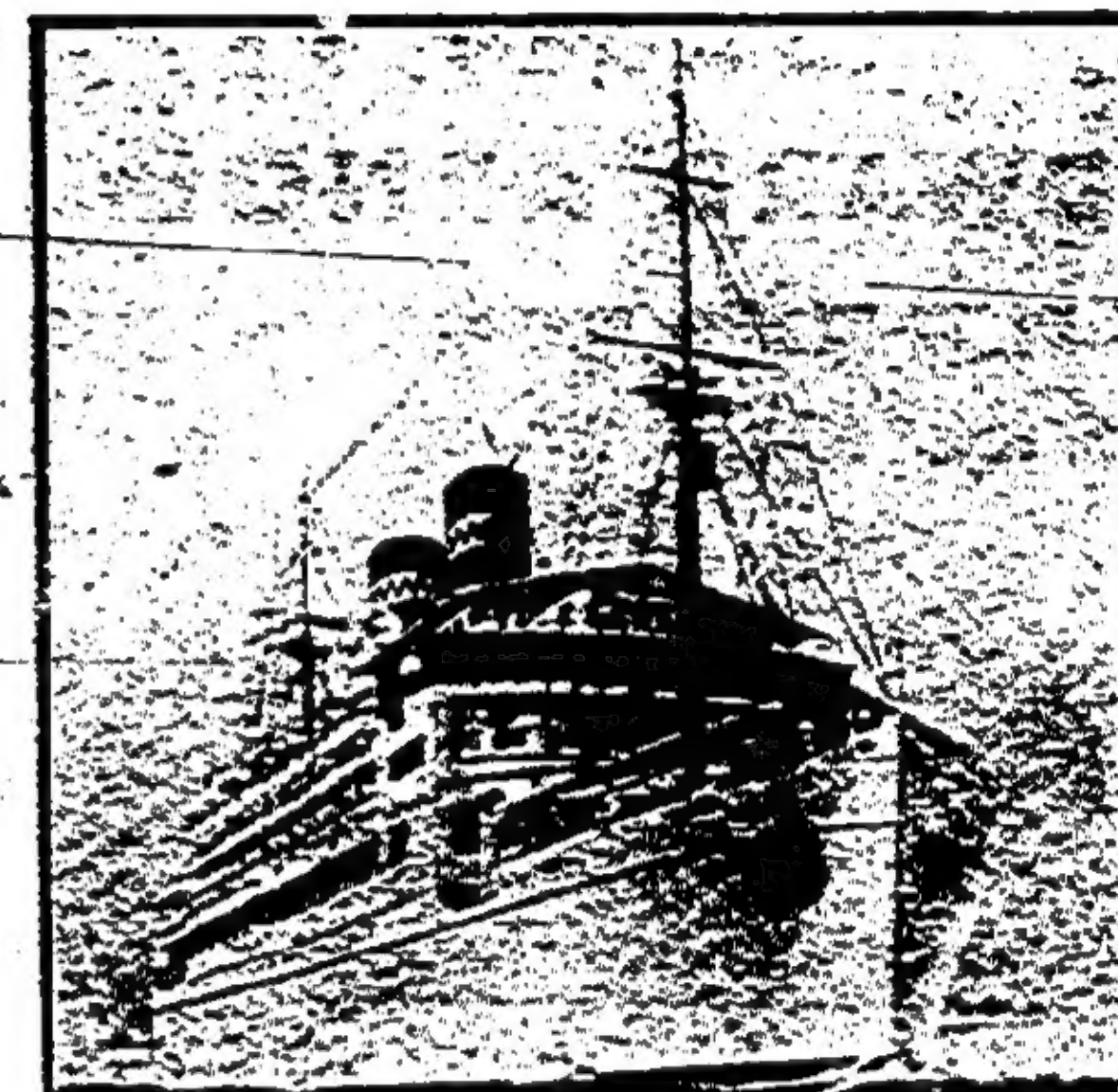
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"Your telegram December No. 345. I have it in command from His Majesty The King to express to you and the people of Hong Kong his grateful appreciation of their message of sympathy. Their Majesties are deeply touched."

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"CHINA MAIL" SPECIAL
Berlin, To-day.
Again Germany's foreign trade returns show a substantial export surplus of 51,000,000 marks for November, by comparison with an export surplus of 55,000,000 for October, 1935 and of only 10,000,000 for November 1934. The total volume of foreign trade for the month of November 1935 showed an increase over October 1935 and November 1934, imports in November 1935 being 346,000,000, against 336,000,000 in October 1935 and 346,000,000 in November 1934; while exports were 397,000,000 in November 1935, against 391,000,000 in October 1935 and 356,000,000 in November 1934.

The November 1935 imports were exactly the same as in November 1934, but were considerably less than the monthly average over the whole year 1934; whereas exports in November 1935 were much greater than in November 1934, and still greater than the monthly average for 1934.

Up till November 1935, exports exceeded the imports by 74,000,000 Reichsmarks, whereas for the corresponding 11 months of 1934 imports were in excess by 240,000,000 Reichsmarks. — Trans-Ocean Service.

INVADING ARMY IN RETREAT

(Continued from Page 1)

in the rear the block houses were reinforced, but by 6 a.m. the Italians were retreating to Demogina Pass, a dozen miles to the north-east of the ford where the attack began.

ABYSSINIANS CROSS RIVER
There the Italians were strongly reinforced and claim that they severely punished the advancing Abyssinians. This second phase of the battle lasted until late in the afternoon.

Meanwhile a considerable force of Abyssinians commanded by Dedjasmach Ayeluburnu crossed the river 60 miles downstream, threatening the Italian flank and penetrating the Shire Adabo regions for the purpose of intimidating the local population, which has submitted to the Italians. Italian planes and whiplash tanks attacked the invaders, who nevertheless continued to advance until late on Monday afternoon.

U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS
Jersey City: Carrying anti-war and anti-Fascist posters crowds marched to the pier where the Norwegian freighter Spero was loading with scrap iron for Italy. The crowds tried to board the ship to protest to the captain, but were kept off by the police. The leaders of the demonstrators mounted boxes and made speeches against the shipment of the war materials. They were joined by 19 sailors from the Spero.

The police arrested eight demonstrators after their refusal to disperse. — Reuter.

EARLIER MESSAGES

Abyssinian Positions Attacked

ITALIAN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE

Addis Ababa: Heavy fighting has been reported from Nechellin, 45 miles south-east of Sasabaneh, where an army under General Graziani, who has just received, via Mogadishu, the long expected reinforcements to the extent of one division, attacked the Abyssinian fortresses.

Abyssinian reports declare that the Italians were repulsed, 13 of their armoured cars having been destroyed. South-west of Sasabaneh the Abyssinians are holding their very skillfully devised defences.

Fifteen three-engined bombing planes attacked Ras Denta's positions on Monday, after reconnoitring planes had located the Abyssinian forces about 200 miles north-east of the former position, being 40,000 men strong.

The Italian bombs appear to have caused serious damage. The well-armed Abyssinians returned the bombardment with anti-aircraft



Fully recovered from his recent illness, General Pershing arrives in New York from France where he spent the summer in connection with the Battle Monuments Commission work.

SPANISH CORTES ADJOURNED

Expected Dissolution At New Year

"CHINA MAIL" SPECIAL

Madrid, To-day.
A decree adjourning the Cortes until January 1—not December 27, as the first reports had it—was published in the official Gazette yesterday. The Government decided to postpone the original date for a few days in order that elections may take place after the carnival festivities in the last week before Lent.

It is generally anticipated that Parliament will be promptly dissolved on January 1 and that the date of the elections—which under the constitution must take place within 60 days after the dissolution—will be fixed for March 1.

The Government meanwhile is taking measures to strengthen its position by appointing numerous new Civil Governors and municipal councillors to replace those nominated during the past two years. — Trans-Ocean Service.

TREASURY RETURNS

Revenue Increase Reported

London, To-day.
The Exchequer returns show that the total of ordinary revenue, excluding self-balancing items, amounts to \$411,460,600 as compared with \$393,863,147 at the corresponding date of last year.

The total inland revenue is \$158,972,000, against \$152,638,000 in the same period of the last financial year, while the total ordinary expenditure, exclusive of self-balancing items, is \$524,208,024, as against \$504,906,618 at the corresponding date of 1934. — British Wireless Service.

GREEK PARLIAMENT TO BE DISSOLVED

Athens, To-day.—The Premier, M. Demertzis, announced yesterday that his suggestion to dissolve Parliament had been approved by the King, and that the date of the elections had been fixed for January 26. The new Parliament will assemble on March 12. — Trans-Ocean Service.

MARGATE'S INCOME

Margate's income from entertainments for the year ended October 31 last was \$87,161, compared with \$62,307 for the previous 12 months.

guns, but only succeeded in damaging one plane, which, though crippled, managed to reach its base again.

Defence Measures On Ogaden Front

Addis Ababa: In view of the new Italian offensive, the Abyssinians are moving all available troops to the Ogaden front. — Trans-Ocean Service.

BRITISH TRADE AGREEMENTS

Informal Exchanges With America

London, To-day.
The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Walter Runciman, in a written reply to a Parliamentary question as to whether any discussions were in progress with a view to an Anglo-American trade agreement, said: "Following the declared policy, the Government have under constant review the possibility of negotiating trade agreements with foreign countries. Informal exchanges have accordingly taken place from time to time with a view to ascertaining whether a basis exists for negotiations between the United Kingdom and the United States, but these exchanges have been of an exploratory nature." — British Wireless Service.

SCIENCE HELPS TAX COLLECTOR

"Bloodhound" Detects Mountain Stills

Science is coming to the aid of the collector of excise taxes on spirits. A new device, known as a "bloodhound," now detects the existence of the secret stills where tax evaders distil "moonshine," the potent of America.

In outward appearance like a camera, the "bloodhound" contains a sensitive plate which is affected by the bacteria present in the air. Presence of a still is indicated by the abnormally large bacterial content of the air, caused by the fermentation of the "mash." — Reuter.

HOPEI-CHAHAR COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 1.)

chen was elected to carry on the routine business of the committee. The members then adjourned for a banquet. — Reuter.

Acid Comment By "The Times"

London: Another act of the North China drama is over, says *The Times*, but it has left the audience slightly puzzled by a departure from some of the precedents set on previous occasions. All the stock characters have appeared — the Japanese militarists, their subject-allies of the Japanese Foreign Office, their creatures the Chinese autonomists, doing their comic business in the wings, and the spectator Powers, some as mute as oysters and others muttering disapproval.

But there has been one important change, namely, that the Nanking Government, instead of succumbing, resisted the pressure and escaped on better terms than were expected. The question has been settled by a compromise agreement and will certainly strengthen the Japanese position in North China, but not nearly so much as the militarists hoped.

The composition of the new Ministry at Nanking suggests that the new administration can co-operate with Japan if the Japanese militarists do not alienate it by further bullying.

The ultimate aim of the Japanese in North China is still uncertain, but more important than speculations on the matter is the attitude of the Japanese Foreign Office, whose spokesman severely criticised the Nine-Power Treaty. It is conceivable that the Japanese Government has some bargain in mind, and that we shall hear more on the matter as soon as the discrepancy between the American naval policy and the Japanese claims becomes obvious. — Reuter.

WEATHER REPORT

The anti-cyclone over China is increasing in intensity. The depression has moved into the Pacific to the east of Japan. A typhoon has appeared to the south of Guam; it will probably move north-westward. North-east winds freshen; the forecast for to-day, as issued by the Royal Observatory this morning.

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Printed and Published for the Proprietors, The Newspaper Enterprise Ltd., by DAVID CHRISTIAN WILSON, Manager, at 3A Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hong Kong.